

# GROOVE

SEOUL

ISSUE 62 • DECEMBER 2011

## CHRISTMAS in the CAPITAL

- 9 Christmas dinners in Seoul
- 10 New Year's Eve parties
- 11 holiday performances
- Last minute shopping
- Seoul's winter events

## 2 recipes to beat the cold

Read Urban's kabocha bisque &  
Pamola Julien's tortilla de patatas

## TBS eFM

Radio station marks  
3-year anniversary

—Interview with Steve  
Hatherly

## Erotic Fantasies

Expat exhibition confronts  
eroticism & exoticism

PLUS 20 art shows you don't  
want to miss.

## Do you know your neighbors ?

## A 21st century pilgrimage

Retrace the  
path of a 7th  
century monk







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# WELCOME

WE WORKED EXTRA HARD IN NOVEMBER TO HELP YOU HAVE A THE BEST DECEMBER YET. GET PLUGGED IN TO YOUR COMMUNITY WITH GROOVE!

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Your December issue of Groove Korea takes an extensive look at Christmas in the Capital. It's a happy time of year for many, but can be lonely for others. If you're new to Korea and don't have a social network (a real-life one), you might spend too much time missing home and not enough time out and about, meeting old friends and making new ones, talking to your neighbors and living your life.

With that in mind, we've set out to fill in the information gap for you. Groove's food editor Josh Foreman fills you in on where you can fill up on turkey. Jenny Na has put together a list of performances and concerts taking place over the holidays to entice you away from facebook or your newest iPhone app. Still haven't started chipping away at your Christmas shopping list? Start with some of George Kim's great gift suggestions. And it's never too soon to start making New Year's Eve plans: We made a list consisting of some of the best parties in Seoul.

"Neighbors" is part of December's theme. Stephanie Potell asks us to consider how well we know the people we live next to. She realized she didn't know hers at all, so she set on a journey to explore and introduce herself to businesses within her officetel. Ironically, in one of the liveliest cities in Asia, it's far too easy to cordon one's self off from the world around us. This story is refreshing because it reminds of the importance of community interaction. And really, knowing your neighbors is one of the first steps to knowing Korea.

Speaking of community, Ambassador of Ireland Eamonn McKee writes in to tell us what good the Irish embassy is – a must read for Irish expats. It's the third in a series that invites ambassadors to reach out to their constituents.

Also enhancing the lives of expats in Seoul – those with a radio – is TBS eFM. December marks the station's three-year anniversary. Groove Korea sat down with Steve Hatherly, host of the popular Steve Hatherly Show, to talk about his career, his rock'n'roll program and the station's impact on the expat community.

Finally, we introduce the new column "Repatriate Me," written by long-time Korea-resident Sean Smith. Most expats that land in Korea leave at one point or another. Under that pretext, Sean explores how repatriation can be more stressful than expatriation. It's a step-by-step account of his return to Canada with his wife and children after 13 years of life in Korea.

As always, please get in touch if you have a story to share.

Thanks for reading,

**Matthew Lamers**  
*Editor-in-chief*

**HOT ON:**  
[WWW.GROOVEKOREA.COM](http://WWW.GROOVEKOREA.COM)

## December

### Deals!

Groove Korea's exclusive partnership with JigoCity, a social commerce company, will bring you insane deals – up to 70 percent off – at your favorite restaurants, pubs and lots of other places. All you need is a PayPal account. Stay on the lookout for the launch at [www.groovekorea.com](http://www.groovekorea.com).

### Tips for artists

Elizabeth Adele Groeschen lays out 20 tips every new expat artists needs to know. Whether you're fresh off the boat or an expat vet, this list of advice will be of some use to you. She talked to some established foreign artists in Korea, asking them to share some of what they've learned over the years with Groove's readers. Their advice includes where to find art supplies, establishing a professional network, motivating yourself, meeting new people, and getting business cards made. **Read the story online in December or in print in January.**

### The forming of a family

Documentary photographer Romin Lee Johnson accompanies a couple from St. Louis on the final leg of their 13-month journey to adopt their son from Korea. The Korean government has been systematically lowering the number of international adoptions each year in an attempt to promote domestic adoptions. This, along with the myriad requirements and challenges faced along the way, made the first meeting between parents and child that much more poignant. **Read the story online in December or in print in January.**

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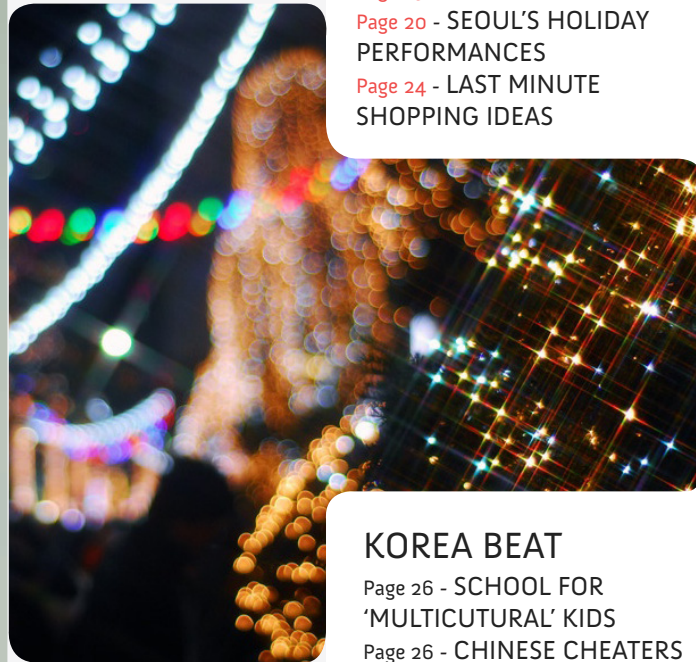


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# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE WORKING DAY AND NIGHT  
TO BRING YOUR COMMUNITY TO KOREA.



**Dan Himes**

Dan is a web nerd and Busan resident who has always lived near water. He grew up in Pennsylvania, but no he isn't Amish. He loves long walks on Haeundae Beach, geeking out in front of his computer and sporting Hawaiian shirts each and every Friday. He enjoys these activities even more with a bottle of makgeolli.



**Daniel Sanchez**

Daniel has been working as a free-lance designer for over 5 years now. He recently joined the Groove Staff as a designer. Born in Colombia, he moved to Seoul a few months ago and he is currently learning Korean language. Loves the beach, music and appreciating new great art.



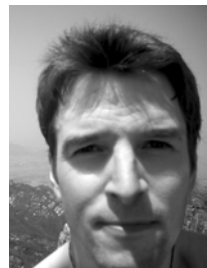
**David Volodzko**

David Volodzko has been teaching philosophy and literature in Japanese and Korean universities for the past nine years. He is currently a graduate student at SUNY-Stony Brook, and living in western Jerusalem, where he spends his free time studying Hebrew and Arabic.



**Elizabeth Groeschen**

Elizabeth loves Seoul despite not loving huge crowds of people. She really appreciates quiet coffee shops and her tap dance studio when she has time for lessons. She's currently working on two documentary photography projects, and planning a trip around the world. Check out her portfolio at [www.elizadele.com](http://www.elizadele.com).



**John M. Rodgers**

John is founding editor of The Three Wise Monkeys webzine and chief language teacher at Daewon Foreign Language High School. He's contributed to Korean dailies and worked as a beat reporter at a local paper in the U.S. state of New Hampshire where he's from. He enjoys hiking throughout Korea.



**Stephanie Potell**

Stephanie graduated with a fine arts degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. When not convincing school-children she's fluent in Korean, she is out exploring Korea's capital. With her camera in hand, no stone is left unturned.



**Matthew Lamers**

Matt lives with his family in beautiful Paju. When not taking care of his children, and sometimes while doing so, he holds the reins as Groove Korea's editor-in-chief. He loves good sushi, cheap wine and fresh air.



**Luca Molnar**

Luca has been working as a digital artist since 2006. She has worked for clients such as Ogilvy & Mather, MTV Networks and Sprite. Her work has been featured in magazines the world over. She has contributed the cover artwork for the December issue of Groove Korea.

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Registration No.: Seoul Ra 11806

## MARK

# HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR THE BOOKMARK SIGN



1.

1. Interview with an American vet / page 34  
James Albert Kearns' colorful take on his time in Korea.



2.

2. English Radio / page 78

TBS eFM celebrates three-year anniversary this month.



3.

3. Climbing giants in Kenya / page 44

This is the highest place I've ever stood — this is the top of Kenya.

4. Elegant Japanese - Yuda / page 56

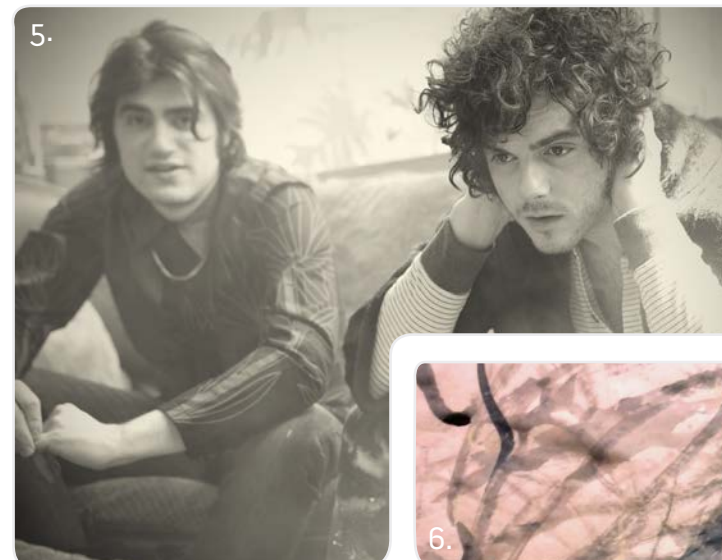
Yuda in Itaewon has the vibe of a 1950's Tokyo Noodle Shop.



4.

6. Erotic Fantasies / page 66

Erotic Fantasies exhibition confronts issues like eroticism and exoticism.



5.

5. Funk for your Christmas Junk / page 90

SuperColorSuper brings French Horn Rebellion to Busan then Seoul.



6.



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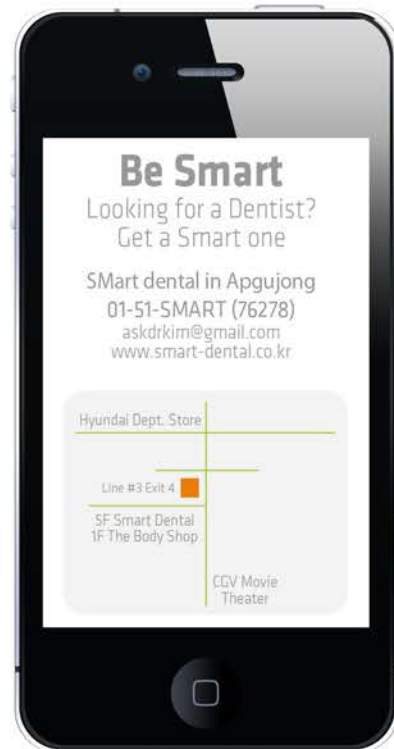


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Clinical Training, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Dankook University  
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Member, American Academy of Osseointegration



ARTIST FEATURE

**GROOVE** ON THIS MONTH'S  
**COVER**



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**DANIEL SANCHEZ**

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# Upcoming Events

December

Dec.  
3

\*More details in calendar  
RUBBER SOUL CHARITY  
CONCERT IN HONGDAE



Dec.  
24/25

\*More details in calendar  
THE SANTALAND DIARIES @  
PROBATONARY THEATER



Dec.  
24

\*More details in calendar  
CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER  
@ BIG ROCK



Dec.  
31

\*More details in calendar  
NEW YEAR @ BONGEUNSA  
TEMPLE AND INTERCONTINENTAL



All of the events posted below are  
subject to unforeseen changes.

## THURSDAY

Dec. 1

- Moroccan cooking class @ Seorae g;abklasjdce8Global Village Center. 20,000 won.
- American Chamber of Commerce's "The Art of Negotiation" from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 8

- Ladies night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Thursdays). Info: (02) 333-1604
- Gold Treasures of Ukraine exhibit @ Hanga-ram Art Museum, Seoul Arts Center. 10,000 won entrance fee. Runs from Dec. 1 to Dec. 26. See our exhibit page for more information.

Dec. 15

- Quiz night at 3 Ally Pub in Itaewon. Win Beer. Info: www.3alleypub.com
- Joris Laarman's metalworks, installation exhibit runs from Dec. 13 to Jan. 20 @ Kukje Gallery, Samcheong-dong

Dec. 22

- Nanta (Cookin') open run. Info: www.nanta.co.kr
- Dear Cloud Dec. 22, 23, 24 & 25 @ Welcomm Theater (Dongguk University Station). See Christmas performances article for more

Dec. 29

- Open mic @ Orange Tree in HBC
- Ladies night @ Yaletown in Sinchon. (Thursdays) Info: (02) 333-1604

## FRIDAY

Dec. 2

- Christmas market is a street market from Dec. 2 to Dec. 4 @ Fountain square (Hansung Univer
- Sri Lankan Cooking class @ Seorae Global Village Center. 14,000 won. E-mail seorae@sba.seoul.kr to register.

Dec. 9

- Bucket Night @ Beer O'Clock in Sinchon
- Thomas Demand's installation exhibit @ PKM Trinity Gallery in Apgujeong. Runs through Jan. 10.

Dec. 16

- Outdoor ice rink at Seoul Plaza opens. Go to City Hall Station, Line 1, 2, Exit 5.
- French Horn Rebellion in Busan @ Fabric on Dec. 16; in Seoul @ Rolling Hall on Dec. 17. See our Christmas performances article for more

Dec. 23

- The RockTigers, GoGo Boys and more @ Soundholicity. Show starts at 11 p.m. and entrance is 25,000 won.
- Teachers' Night @ Big Rock — 10% off (Fridays)

Dec. 30

- Yeongdeungpo Global Center's Korean classes run from Jan.-June. Info: global.seoul.go.kr
- Two Gallants perform in Cheonan @ Dolce Bar

## SATURDAY

Dec. 3

- White Box Theatre presents the play "A Street-car Named Desire" near Hyochang Park Station.
- Rubber Soul charity concert @ DGBD, Free Bird, Hodge Podge, Club FF, Gogos 2, Club Ta and other places. Admission is 10,000 won and

Dec. 10

- CD release party for Angry Bear album @ Club Ta. Stow starts at 11 p.m. and fee is 10,000W
- End-of-year Itaewon Pool League tournament. Register by 3:45 p.m. same say at JR Pub in Itaewon. Info: http://www.itaewonpool.org

Dec. 17

- Eshe Yildiz's We Wish You a Belly Christmas! @ HodgePodge. See Xmas performances article
- The RockTigers, The Essence, One Hundred Blossom Club @ DGBD. Show starts at 10 p.m. Info: http://cafe.daum.net/dgbd

Dec. 24

- Probationary Theatre's Santaland Diaries on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 @ White Box Theatre.
- SEE OUR DINNER PLANNER IN THE CHRISTMAS SECTION

Dec. 31

- SEE OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE PAGE IN THE CHRISTMAS SECTION

## SUNDAY

Dec. 4

- Peter Pan Complex, Delispace @ V Hall in Hongdae. 35,000 won.
- Chamber Christmas concert @ Seoul Global Culture and Tourism Center. Info: goesslry@gmail.com
- Overeaters Anonymous meeting @ International Lutheran Church

Dec. 11

- Pitcher Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Every Sunday)
- Royal Asiatic Society's Gakwon-sa and Magok-sa temple excursion. Info: www.raskb.com
- Joseon Dynasty paintings exhibit @ Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art. See our exhibit page for more

Dec. 18

- Seoul City Improv and ImprovBoston Dec. 17-18 @ Moon Night
- AA meeting @ International Lutheran Church 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Codependents Anonymous @ International Lutheran Church from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Dec. 25

- 2AM perform on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 @ Jamsil Students' Gymnasium
- Ronn Branton Group: Jazz Xmas Dec. 24- 25 @ Sejong Center for the Performing Arts' Chamber Hall

## MONDAY

Dec. 5

- Casper Kang painting exhibit @ Gallery Imazoo in Gangnam. Runs from Dec. 2 to Dec 24.
- Musical Greece is playing Dec. 2 to Dec. 18 @ Goyang Oulim Nuri Arts Center. Info: http://artgy.or.kr

Dec. 12

- City Within the City exhibit @ Art Sonje Center, Jongno-gu. 3,000 won entrance fee.
- Message Mondays @ Sky Wellness Center in Itaewon. Body message and get a 20-minute foot message.

Dec.19

- Korean calligraphy class. Every Monday. Monthly fee is 10,000 won. Info: m-seohyun@naver.com
- Korea National Ballet's The Nutcracker Dec. 16-25 @ Seoul Arts Center.

Dec. 26

- Open min @ Tony's in Itaewon. Info: http://tonysitaewon.com
- Cultwo Christmas Show @ Coex Atlantic Hall in Gangnam. Dec. 22-31. Info: http://ticket.interpark.com

## TUESDAY

Dec. 6

- Pasta day @ The Ally Italian Restaurant & Café in Itaewon
- Sven Schelwach's exhibit "The Parallel Universes" @ Gallery Dongne near Seoul Station. Runs from Dec. 3 to Dec. 25. See our exhibit page for more information.

Dec. 13

- Royal Asiatic Society lecture "A Gayageum Evening with Jocelyn Clark" Info: www.raskb.com
- Australian, Korean art exhibit 1976-2011\* runs to Feb. 19 @ National Museum of Contemporary Art.

Dec.20

- 2-for-1 fish & chips @ Wolfhound in Itaewon.
- Wing Night at 3 Ally Pub in Itaewon. Info: www.3alleypub.com

Dec. 27

- Half price appetizers @ Hollywood Grill in Itaewon (Tuesdays, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.)
- Open registration to volunteer with Itaewon Global Center. Info: http://global.seoul.go.kr/itaewon

## WEDNESDAY

Dec. 7

- Sliders night @ Yaletown in Sinchon (Wednesdays)
- The ongoing exhibition Dialogue in the Dark @ at Vertigo Tower in Sinchon. See our Christmas performances article for more

Dec. 14

- Karl Lagerfeld's exhibit Work in Progress runs through March 18 @ Daelim Contemporary Art Museum.
- Exhibit TV Commune runs through Jan. 24 @ Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin-si

Dec. 21

- Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays)
- Universal Ballet Company's The Nutcracker is on from Dec. 21 to Dec. 31 @ Universal Ballet Center.
- Cheese steak sandwich night @ Hollywood Grill in Itaewon

Dec. 28

- Exhibit on Korean calligraphy @ Seoul Arts Center from Dec. 19 to Dec. 31. Info: http://www.sac.or.kr
- Standup comedy @ Tony's (Wednesdays) Info: http://tonysitaewon.com

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- Depression
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- Constipation
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- Sciatic and other muscular-skeletal disorders

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## CHRISTMAS in the CAPITAL

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• Seoul Forest in Seongdong-gu



From: *George Kim*  
To: *All Expats in Seoul*

# 10 Places to ring in New Year

The sooner you get your New Year plans set in stone the better. Wait too long and risk spending another New Year's Eve sipping soju in front of the local Family Mart. Not that that's ever happened to me.

Following are some venues with the foresight to have their New Year's Eve plans established in November, so we could give them free advertising in Groove Korea's December issue. Details have been provided by hosts and are subject to change. Call ahead.



## The Wolfhound Pub

Wolfhound is having a countdown at midnight at both locations. They plan to offer specials on champagne by the glass and bottle all night. There will be free Jell-O shooters throughout the night. No cover. To get to Wolfhound, take Line 6 to Itaewon Station, Exit 4. As soon as you exit the station, double back and turn right at the intersection. Turn right at the first ally and Wolfhound is on your right about 20m down the street.

## Countdown Seoul @ Times Square

Countdown Seoul is back this year at the same venue. Like last year's party, the 2011-12 version is packed with great artists. Completed in 2009, Times Square is Korea's newest landmark attraction. It's a huge complex with Shinsegae Department Store, CGV Starium, Kyobo Book Centre, E-Mart, and a 273-room Marriott.

Bands include UV, So Me, Housse De Racket and Breakbot, who are performing in Korea for the first time. Party kicks off at 7 p.m. and goes to about 5 a.m. Early bird tickets cost from 66,000 won to 77,000 won. Tickets at the door cost 99,000 won. To get there, take Line 5, 1 to Yeongdeung-po Market Station, exit 3,4. Get your tickets at [ticket.yes24.com](http://ticket.yes24.com) or call (02) 1544-6399. For more information, go to <https://timessquare.co.kr/en>.

## New Year's Eve Gala

As the clock nears midnight on Dec. 31, Americans eyes turn to the dazzling lights and bustling energy of Seoul and the Dragon Hill Lodge. Called "America The Beautiful" – New Year's Eve here has become somewhat of a tradition. As the clock counts down, an estimated 2,000 people inside the Dragon Hill Lodge are united in bidding a collective farewell to 2011. E-mail [discoverseoul@dragonhilllodge.com](mailto:discoverseoul@dragonhilllodge.com) for reservations. JW Marriott New Year's Eve Room Package includes a double room and two tickets to the Dragon Hill Lodge's New Year Gala. For \$233, get transportation to and from the Dragon with your room.



## High Light Festival

The popular Asian-American electro hip-hop group Far East Movement is putting on a show to celebrate the New Year. Six acts will perform at this hip-hop and electronic festival at the Vista Hall – while four groups perform at the Walkerhill Theater. Artists include DJ Sebastian, Idiotape, DJ Yup, DJ Feadz, Beat Burger and more.

The festival goes from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Tickets range from 66,000 won to 132,000 won.

Go to Gwangnaru Station, Line 5, Exit 2. For more information, call (02) 323-2838 or go to [highlightfestival.mnet.com](http://highlightfestival.mnet.com).



## Countdown Fantasy

With the year coming to an end, the venue AX-Korea will host a huge Korean rock party. It's actually a two-day event: from Dec. 30 to the early morning of Jan. 1, but tickets are available for just New Year's Eve. Performers include: Super Card, The Moonshiners, Yellow Moon Stars, Peter Pan Complex – and many more. Both the Dec. 30 and 31 parties start at 3:30 p.m. A one-day ticket costs 55,000 to 60,000 won and a two-day pass costs 66,000 to 70,000 won. To get to AX-Korea, take Line 5 to Gangnaroo Station, Exit 2. For more information, go to [www.ax-korea.com](http://www.ax-korea.com) and [mintpaper.com](http://mintpaper.com).



## Final Magic Party

Expect lots of loud Korean indie music at the Final Magic Party. Bands include Dance, Gogostar, J-Rabbit, Easternsidekick and Broken Valentine. One ticket gets you one drink. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the party goes to 2 a.m. or later. Cost is 44,000 won. To get to Rolling Hall near Hongik University, take Line 6 to Sangsoo Station and leave through Exit 1. Tickets can be purchased through [ticket.auction.co.kr](http://ticket.auction.co.kr). Call Rolling Hall at (02) 333-9593 for more information.



## DJ.DOC Concert

Since 1994, DJ.DOC has been a K-pop fixture. They're famous for their exciting stage presence. If you're a fan, this is where you want to be on Dec. 31. The concert takes place at Olympic Park's SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium, Seoul from 8 p.m. Standing room tickets go for 99,000 won and reserved seating cost 110,000 won. To get there, leave Exit 3 of Olympic Park Station on Line 5. For tickets, go to <http://ticket.interpark.com> or call the Korean Tourism Organization for help getting information in English.

## The Meet Market

Join some of Korea's hottest queers at The Meet Market for a night of drag, dancing, and debauchery. Hosted by The Butchers (Rachel Miller and Kim Thompson), this is a new party for the GLBTQ community (and their allies) that is hosted at the legendary Hongdae club, Myoung Wol Gwan. You don't have to be queer to come out and have a good time, but you do have to be queer-friendly. The next Meet Market will be a "Roaring 20s, the Night Before Prohibition" party. Expect some amazing drag, dancing, raffles and costumes. Doors are at 9 p.m. Admission is 15,000 won and includes two free drinks. For directions: <http://www.facebook.com/meetmarketseoul>.

## WooBar Party

On 1st floor of W Hotel, WooBar's sound system will make sure you literally ring in the New Year. DJ Bezebeass, previously a member of the New Metal, will seize the night with Nu-Rave on Dec. 31 from 10 p.m.-4 a.m. Tickets come with a welcome drink and cost 50,000 won through Interpark and 60,000 won on site. Call WooBar at (02) 2022-0333 or go to their website ([woobar.wseoul@whotels.com](http://woobar.wseoul@whotels.com)) for more information.

## Bongeunsa Temple, InterContinental

Start your night off at Bongeunsa Temple – right across from the InterContinental Seoul COEX – for New Year entertainment including the ringing of the bell at midnight and a fireworks display.

Guests at the Sky Lounge will have a view of Samsung-dong and the Han River. Make reservations for a late dinner here to take part in the countdown and enjoy a special drink set, making it a romantic way to end the year. Also on New Year's Eve, The Sky Lounge Pluto Room is preparing a Propose Package. In the lobby lounge from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. you can take part in Deluxe Wonder Hour, while from 11 p.m. – 1 a.m., the Midnight Snack Buffet has a feast at a reasonable price. Here, join in the countdown and groove to live music until 1 a.m. At the Grand InterContinental Seoul Parnas, Table 34 is offering champagne with a New Year's Eve set menu. Marco Polo will offer a late dinner, combining Mediterranean cuisine and an Asian course menu with a view of the city below.



If you don't want to get stuck eating moksal again this Christmas, book a seat at one of the following places. Prices and times have been provided by the respective establishments and are subject to change. Call ahead.

## Where to get your Xmas grub

by JOSH FOREMAN

### OKKitchen

Where: Itaewon Price: KRW 62,000  
Contact: (02) 797-6420

Chef Susumu Yonaguni grows many of his own vegetables for his award-winning Itaewon restaurant. The renowned tasting menu here always starts with a fish plate made up of nine artfully created pieces of sashimi. OKKitchen will have a special Christmas Eve version of its eight-course tasting menu. Specific menu items are yet to be decided.

### Kitchen at Walker Hill

Where: Gwangjang-dong Price: KRW 150,000  
Contact: (02) 465-2222

This chic restaurant overlooking the Han River will have a special Christmas Eve menu of wagyu beef, lobster risotto and French chocolate barona.

### Yaletown

Where: Sinchon Price: KRW 30,000  
Contact: (02) 333-1604

Canadian sports bar Yaletown will have an all-you-can-eat buffet on Christmas night with turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, macaroni and cheese, beer and wine.

### J.W. Marriott

Where: Banpo-dong Price: KRW 295,000  
Contact: (02) 6282-6738

If you don't want to go out for Christmas dinner, J.W. Marriott is offering turkey sets to-go. You can get a six-kilogram or eight-kilogram turkey with giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, glazed carrots, roasted pumpkin, corn-bread stuffing, and mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes.

### The King's at Grand Ambassador

Where: Jangchung-dong Price: KRW 58,000  
Contact: (02) 2270-3121

The King's is serving a French-themed Christmas menu through December. Dishes include turkey and foie gras chestnut terrine, duck in orange sauce, blue cheese with scallops and roasted chicken with cider.

### Novotel Ambassador Seoul

Where: Gangnam Price: KRW 90,000  
Contact: (02) 333-1604

This French hotel will have a special Christmas seafood buffet with wine. Last year the menu included 11 kinds of sashimi.

### Big Rock

Where: Gangnam Price: KRW 40,000  
Contact: (02) 539-6650

Big Rock is offering a 40,000 won all-you-can-eat buffet on Dec. 24 from 6 p.m. The menu includes: deep fried turkey, home-made stuffing, dry aged roast beef with country styled gravy, orange honey glazed pork belly, home-made apple pie, and more. Book a reservation by e-mailing info@bigrockbeer.co.kr – a place will be reserved after a bank transfer is made. Price includes one drink.

### Costco

Where: Throughout Seoul Price: \$1/100g  
Contact: (02) 2679-1234

If you feel like cooking Christmas dinner yourself, Costco is one of the few places in Seoul that sells whole turkeys and hams. Turkeys aren't cheap but shouldn't be more than 100,000 won. A 1-kilo ham sells for about 10,000 won. And of course, Costco has many things to supplement the main courses, including pre-made pumpkin pies.

### Taipan at Millenium Seoul Hilton

Where: Namsan Price: KRW TBD  
Contact: (02) 317-3012

Celebrate Christmas 10 days early, Chinese-style, at the 18th Imperial Feast on December 15. Nine courses will be served along with wine and "Chinese liquors." The other restaurants at the Millennium Hilton will also be serving holiday meals. Call for more information.



### Gawk at the Seoul Winter Festival

Daniel Joseph Vorderstrasse, arts editor

Get up off your ondol and head on over to Seoul's Winter Festival. It contains numerous spectacles, ranging from a festival of lights that transforms downtown Seoul into a charming place with twinkling white lights all around. Trees illuminated by fluorescent bulbs line the streets, taxis whiz by and onlookers trot underneath to their destinations.

The highlight may be a stroll along the Cheonggyecheon as it bisects Seoul's cultural heartland. A history of hardships for the watercourse ranging from a natural, free-flowing brook to sewage drainage for the underprivileged has now become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the capital.

In the winter it's a show of illumination and lasers. The laser show adds a present-day technological feeling to the ambiance. The stream possesses every component needed for a pleasant night under Seoul's illuminance. For an extra dose of electrifying gratification, enjoy the stream on a winter night with a hot beverage in one hand and a special someone in the other. Or get a cold Cass and go alone.



# Seoul In the cold

by THE EDITORS

### Skate At Seoul Plaza

Matthew Lammers, editor-in-chief

Cheesy, yes, but skating at Seoul Plaza is one of my favorite things to do in Seoul when the temperatures fall below zero. For 1,000 won you get an hour to zip around the rink – or fall along the boards with the rest of the beginners. It's so busy that your ticket is good only for a one hour. If you want to avoid the crush, go on a weekday evening.

After skating, wander through a snowy Deoksugung Palace or walk along the Cheonggyecheon to Jongno. There, wash down some moksal with cold Cass, followed by a few hours in one of the city's best mak-koli joints. Paradise.

If you're with your family, go for dinner atop the Jongno Tower and admire the view of a wintery Seoul.

### Experience Seoul's Russian area

Josh Foreman, food and travel editor

Every visit to the Russian area of Dongdaemun comes with a story. The first time I heard about the area was back in 2005. There was a bar/restaurant there called My Friend then. A co-worker went for some Russian food, and while he was eating a guy became upset and flipped his table over. All the dishes and glasses on the table went flying off. I went there myself and have accumulated my own set of stories.

In 2008, after a winter camp, I went there with a group of friends. We'd been paid in cash, and each had a million won in our pockets. We ordered a feast of lamb-stuffed pastry, borscht, and lamb skewers and washed it down with Baltika beers and vodka. The whole time we were eating, a fat man was watching lewd videos on a flat-screen TV on the wall beside us. As the night went on, the videos got more graphic, until it was just porno. The fat man just rocked in his chair, grinning, for what must have been three hours. By the end of the night one of my friends had gotten completely drunk and spread his million won out in a huge fan on the floor.

In wintertime, there's no place more fun to eat and drink than the Russian area (most of the places there seem to actually be Uzbek). The restaurants, like Café Uzbekistan, are cozy. They all serve hearty stews, fatty lamb skewers, and Russian-style breads and pastries. And of course, Russian booze.

### Drink at a Seoul watering hole

Rob McGovern, community editor

Christmas and alcohol go hand-in-hand. From the glass of sherry left for Father Christmas to the ladleful that goes over the Christmas pudding, alcohol lubricates (and strains) family ties, forges (and ends) friendships and turns the timid into confident Casanovas (or so they think).

Whether you call it a hof, bar, boozer, saloon, grogshop, tavern or pub, these watering holes are an integral part of both Korean and Western culture, perhaps more so at Christmas than at any other time of year. Seoul has quite a few great pubs, but for me there is one that stands head and shoulders above the rest: Craftworks.

The beer is the star attraction – several artisanal beers that span the beer spectrum with new ones being introduced periodically. The newest, Seoraksan, will have been flowing for a week or two by the time you read this. I am told it will be an oaty, dark beer distantly related to Guinness. But aside from the beer, the food, staff, clientele and atmosphere all come together to make this one of the best places for a beer in the capital.

Another bar worth considering is Baby Guinness, located on the strip behind the Hamilton Hotel in Itaewon. An "Irish" bar with kitsch décor and 90s music, Baby Guinness is great if you want a quiet beer while looking down on the stumbling masses that will surely be slipping and sliding from neighboring bars and restaurants.

### Hike up Namsan

Summer Walker - music editor

There's not a better place (or time) in Seoul to get a breath of fresh air than the tippy top of North Seoul Tower. Namsan, the mountain that much of downtown is centered around, is host to this jutting spire. From the observation deck, you can look straight down into Myeong-dong, or on the other side, Itaewon. Gaze at the vast expanse of one of the largest cities in the world or turn around toward the not-so-distant mountains. This is a popular place for couples, but I like to go alone, wrapped up in scarves to stand in silence. With music in my ears, I tune out those around me, close my eyes – and breathe.

To get to North Seoul Tower, take Line 4 to Myeong-dong Station, Exit 3. It's a 15-minute walk through the alley next to Pacific Hotel to get to the cable car that will take you right to the top.



# Seoul's Top Holiday Performances

by JENNY NA

Yes there is holiday music, but it's often drowned out by the merry sound of buses backfiring or the guy in the Bongo truck telling you he'll fix your refrigerator for cheap. You need something more to get you into the spirit. And even if you don't give a flying fig about seasonal traditions, you, like an animal following its biological clock, might feel that something is strangely amiss. What you need is something to do to put yourself in the mood, if for no other reason than to reset your inner timekeeper so you can get back to normal.

With that in mind, we've assembled a collection of rousing performances, concerts and unconventional events to entice you away from those next four episodes of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" you've got cued up on your computer. Whether you're a closet traditionalist who needs a rousing round of Hallelujahs and a band of waltzing flowers to get you into the mood, a romantic looking to impress your date with your cultural acumen, or the responsible one in the group tasked with finding something for all of you to do, one of these events is bound to make you merry.

Be forewarned, this is no ordinary holiday list. With belly dance and a tour designed to rouse your senses, you may have to take some risks. Some events blur the lines between spectator and participant, asking you to become both.

## We've assembled a collection of rousing performances, concerts and unconventional events to entice you away from those next four episodes of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" you've got cued up on your computer.

### Rubber Soul Dec. 3

It doesn't take much to make magic around the holidays, especially with an event like this. The annual fundraiser for Little Travelers offers admission to six clubs, letting you sample some of the best indie bands around, including The Rock Tigers, Apollo 18, Yamagata Tweakster, Wagwak, JuckJuck Grunzie, Telepathy, Brick Slipper, Bye Bye Badman, 49 Morphines, Achtung, National Pigeon Unity, Angry Bear and more. The bonus is that all of the proceeds for the event go to a good cause. Last year's event helped build a solar powered school in Uganda. This year, all proceeds go to the Hillcrest AIDS Center in South Africa, which provides health care, education and other services to people living with the disease in the area, which has one of the highest HIV infections rates in the world.

Rubber Soul starts at 5 p.m. at Hodge Podge, at 11 p.m. at DGBD and at 10 p.m. at Freebird, Club FF and Club Ta. Tickets are 10,000 won, which includes a little traveler pin. Hongik University Station, line No. 2, exit 9. E-mail [korea@littletravellers.net](mailto:korea@littletravellers.net) or visit [www.rubbersoulevents.com](http://www.rubbersoulevents.com).

*Go to the Music section for the full story.*

### I.



Organized by Eshe Yildiz, whose last name in Turkish is "star," this event will have you mesmerized in minutes as Navah, Mahadevi and special guest Yildiz of Japan work their magic. The event features a fusion of old and new accompanied by Arabic covers of traditional holiday fare as well as modern pop hits and Christmas classics. The performance is part of an ongoing showcase with live music, art and belly dance, with new material every month.

Guest dancer Yildiz is a Japanese dancer who has been dancing since age 3 and belly dancing since 2002. She has her own school in Tokyo called Altin Oriental Lounge and focuses mainly on improvisation.

HodgePodge is a beautiful space with sparkling chandeliers and a delicious drink menu. There is a seated lounge area as well as a dance floor for those who want to get up and shake it with the dancers.

### Special Holiday Comedy Weekend Dec. 17-18

Seoul City Improv teams up with ImprovBoston for a weekend of comedy that will keep you in stitches. The two troupes perform together Dec. 17. Then Will Leura, artistic director of ImprovBoston, leads an intro to improv workshop for people who want to give it a try.

Seoul City Improv was founded in the style of "Whose Line is it Anyway?" by American actor/director Margaret Whittum in 2007. It tours extensively in Korea, as well as internationally in Taiwan, Tokyo, Hong Kong & Beijing. It is one of the few theatrical organizations in Seoul boasting bilingual comedy entertainment. ImprovBoston has been performing sketch, stand-up and improv comedy around the world for nearly 30 years. It was voted as Boston's Best Comedy Club by the Boston Phoenix, the Improper Bostonian and the Weekly Dig. Its alumni have gone on to fame as Emmy Award winning stars, acclaimed producers, and writers for shows such as The Daily Show. The performance is on Dec. 17 from 9-11 p.m. at Moon Night (formerly Club After) in Itaewon. Tickets are 20,000 won (includes a drink). Itaewon Station, line No. 6, exit 3. The workshop is Dec. 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bar Carmen in Gyeongildan.

E-mail reservation requests to [seoulimprov@gmail.com](mailto:seoulimprov@gmail.com) or visit [www.seoulcityimprov.com](http://www.seoulcityimprov.com). E-mail for directions.

### 3. French Horn Rebellion Dec. 16 and 17

The folks at SuperColor-Super bring you the return of electro synth duo French Horn Rebellion, which first performed here in April to a sold-out house.

Brother David Perlick-Molinari produced MGMT's "Time to Pretend" EP while his brother Robert is the lead vocalist and French horn player that gives the band its name. The Busan show is on Dec. 16 at 10:30 p.m. at Fabric. Tickets are 15,000 won in advance and 20,000 won at the door. Kyungseong Univ./Pukyong National Univ., line No. 2.

The Seoul show, featuring Telepathy and GoGoStar, is on Dec. 17 at 11:30 p.m. at Rolling Hall. Tickets are 18,000 in advance and 24,000 at the door. Sangsu Station, line No. 6, exit 1.

Contact SuperColorSuper at 010-8546-8381 or [supercolorsuper.com](http://supercolorsuper.com).

*Go to the Music section for the full story.*

We wish you  
A Belly Christmas  
Dec. 17



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2.

## Dialogue in the Dark



Powered by melancholic melodies infused with a hard rock edge, Dear Cloud's songs convey a sense of yearning, set alight by the smoky pipes of lead vocalist Nine (whose voice is reminiscent of Everything but the Girl's Tracey Thorn). Seen live, Dear Cloud is a tight group that plays off of each other and the ebullient energy of the audience, which has followed them through the Hongdae circuit in clubs like Freebird, Live Club Ssam and Rolling Hall to Jisan Valley and the Grand Mint Festival. At this show, the band plays an acoustic set to bid the year farewell. Dear Cloud play the Welcomm Theater on Dec. 22 and 23 at 8 p.m., Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 25 at 6 p.m. Tickets are 33,000 won. Go to Dongguk University Station, line No. 3, exit 1. For more, call (02) 336-4146 or visit ticket.interpark.com.

## I. Dear Cloud Dec. 22-25

What do you get when you split One Day? In K-pop, the answer is 2PM and its nocturnal counterpart 2AM. The original band had 11 members, but its offshoots have 6 and 4, respectively, after Jaebeom was fired in 2009 for saying he hated Korea and other nasty things in 2005. Spoiler alert: 2AM is the balladeer to 2PM's hip-hop dancer, even though their names might indicate otherwise. Catch the four-member band before it heads to Japan for a tour next year.

2AM play Jamsil Students' Gymnasium at 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and 5 p.m. Dec. 25. Tickets range from 55,000 won to 99,000 won. Sports Complex Stadium Station, line No. 2, exit 8. For details, call 1544-1555 or visit ticket.interpark.com.

## 2AM Dec. 24 and 25

This event, part exhibition, part sensory experience, sends you through a park, takes you on a boat trip and gives you refreshments in a cafe – all in total darkness. During the event, guides lead visitors through a series of spaces designed to awaken the senses to a world of new experiences and are encouraged to smell, hear, feel and taste everything along the way.

Created to raise awareness about "otherness," the event gives sighted people a new appreciation for their senses and aims to empower people with visual impairments through job creation and social interaction. But the effect on the participant is much more profound. Visitors gain a new perspective not only on their guides, who are blind or partially sighted, but also on their own sense of themselves and the community in which they live. Since its premiere in Germany in 1988, more than six million people in more than 30 countries have experienced the event and 6,000 blind people have found employment. The exhibition has a permanent home in Seoul, so you can participate at any time of year, but the event is said to be transformative, which is what the season is all about.

"Dialogue in the Dark" is held from 12 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends and holidays at Vertigo Tower in Sinchon. Tickets are 20,000 won for teenagers and 30,000 won for adults. For tickets, call 1544-15555 or visit ticket.interpark.com and then reserve a space by calling (02) 313-9977. Tours are available in Korean and English. English speakers must call ahead to make a reservation. Visit www.dialogueinthedark.co.kr for more.



Based on David Sedaris' hilarious essay about his experience training and then working as an elf at Macy's, "The Santaland Diaries" could just be the bitter pill you need to remedy all of that good cheer you've been trying to avoid when the holidays come round. In this sordid tale, the elf is a moody little man in green velvet knickers and the Tiny Tims are there for the mocking. On his first day, Crumpet witnesses "fistfights and vomiting and magnificent tantrums" as he dreams of having people killed. If, like Crumpet, you feel that "it makes one's mouth hurt to speak with forced merriment" at this time of year, this is the show for you.

The show, produced by the Probationary Theatre Company, will be performed by Daniel Kennedy entirely in English with Korean subtitles and is directed by Desiree Munro.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., performances are at 8 p.m. at the White Box Theatre. Tickets are 15,000 won at the door or book online. Hyochang Park Station, line No. 6, exit 2. For more, visit www.probatarytheatre.com.

Go to the Music section for the full story.

## 3. Santaland Diaries by David Sedaris Dec. 24 and 25

Jazz pianist Ronn Branton brings a familiar mix of classic carols such as "Jingle Bells" and "Oh Tannenbaum" and holiday favorites such as "Christmas Time is Here" and "The Christmas Song" to this concert, which features Brazilian percussionist Valtinho Anastacio, longtime collaborator and saxophonist Klæ and bassist Choi Jin-bae. The guest vocalist is Branton's daughter Alex Doyaun, who is making her own career in music. A long-time resident of Korea, Branton was praised by the Washington Post as a "poetic pianist" and celebrated his 10th anniversary Christmas concert last year.

The concert is at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts' Chamber Hall at 4 and 8 p.m.

Tickets range from 44,000 won to 55,000 won, Gwanghwamun Station, line No. 5, exit 1 or 8, For reservations, call (02) 888-0550 or visit www.sejongpac.or.kr.

## 4. Ronn Branton Group Jazz Xmas Dec. 24-25



## 4. Traditional

A holiday chestnut if there ever was one, "The Nutcracker" is that tradition that will transport you back to your childhood like nothing else. The dashing underdog that is the Nutcracker Prince taught us to fight back against our worst enemies, here, in the form of the Mouse King, and Clara taught us that the wonder of entering a different world can still be transformative – if we allow ourselves to be transported. This year, there are two nuts for you to crack in Seoul: the original Petipa/Marinsky version by the Universal Ballet Company and the Grigorovich/Bolshoi version by the Korea National Ballet. The differences between them are subtle, but both will keep you transfixed.

Korea National Ballet: Dec. 16-25. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on weekdays, at 2 and 6 p.m. on weekend and at 1 and 5 p.m. on holidays. Tickets range from 5,000 won to 90,000 won. Seoul Arts Center, Nambu Bus Terminal Station, line No. 3, exit 5. Call (02) 580-1300 or visit www.sac.or.kr.

Universal Ballet: Dec. 21-31. Performances are at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays, at 2 and 5:30 Sunday; Dec. 21 performance is at 7:30 p.m. only. Tickets range from 10,000 won to 100,000 won. Universal Ballet Center, Ahasan Station, line No. 5, exit 4. Call 1544-1555 or visit www.uac.co.kr.

## Two Nutcrackers Dec. 16-25 Dec. 21-31

Handel's Messiah is another seasonal tradition and one of the most famous pieces of holiday music in the Western music canon. This version by the Camarata Music Company is conducted by founder Ryan Goessl and features soprano Cho Kyoung-hwa, bass Won Cho, a 30-piece orchestra and a choir whose members are of 26 nationalities. The group, whose name means "camaraderie," was founded to provide expats and Koreans with an opportunity to perform together. Its first "Messiah," also its inaugural performance, was attended by more than 1,000.

The concert is on Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. at Chungdong First Methodist Church. Tickets are 15,000 won in advance and 25,000 won at the door. City Hall Station, line No. 2, exit 10. For tickets, contact camaratamusic@gmail.com, 010-9806-8655 (English) or 010-4506-8190 (Korean), or visit www.camaratamusic.com.

## Handles "Messiah" Dec. 17



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# 9 Christmas shopping Hail Marys

by GEORGE KIM

Hopefully the following list will save you some time and money. Some of it's pretty obvious — like Dongdaemun Market — and some is a little off the beaten path — like Gangnam's "snowboard street." And hey, if you don't have any family or friends to buy for, get something for yourself. You deserve it.

## 1. Snowboard/ski gear

There are a lot of options if you're in the market for some snowboard or ski gear. Start with these websites to get a feel for prices before heading to the store.

### Ronin

www.roninsnow.co.kr  
Nonhyeon-dong, Gangnam-gu, 3F  
(02) 1544-4915

### Zion

www.zionsnowboard.com  
Nonhyeon-dong Gangnam-gu, 1F  
(02) 540-5701

### Board Line

www.boardline.co.kr  
Nonhyeon-dong Gangnam-gu, 2F  
(02) 3446-0409

### Seven Board

www.7board.co.kr  
Nonhyeon-dong Gangnam-gu, 1F  
(02) 3443-7617

### X-Poz

www.xpoz.co.kr  
Nonhyeon-dong Gangnam-gu, 2F  
(02) 6408-1141

### Phoenix Sports

http://www.exsnow.co.kr/  
Myeong-dong, Miliore Shopping mall, 6F  
(02) 6408-1141

## 2. Jewelry District

If you have someone to love and money to burn, head to Seoul's Jewelry District on Boseok St. It's in Jong-no (Jongno 3-ga Station, Line 3) so make a day of it and go to nearby Insadong for dinner. The Jewelry District was established after the Korean War (1950-1953) and now crams in over 1,000 jewelry stores, some 300 design and manufacturing stores, and more than 20 licensed evaluators. You can get a good deal here — but you have to do your research.

## 3. Old stuff

Antiques are harder to come by in Korea than in most other countries — mostly because the country was obliterated during the war then achieved spectacular growth in post-war decades. Nonetheless, if you know where to look and are willing to spend quite a bit of money, there are beautiful antiques to be had.

### Start at Insadong

It's often said that half of the country's antiques are here. In the market for a 17th century Jeoson Dynasty sword? You're in luck — there's a whole store of 'em. Traditional goods such as pottery, hanbok (traditional clothing), hanji (traditional paper), and folk crafts could all make good gifts. To get to Insadong, go to Anguk Station, Jongno 3-ga Station, Exit 5, 6.

### Janganpyeong Antique Market

Go here if you'd like anything from old record players to furniture. There're about 150 stores. Even if you don't want to buy, this is a great market to stroll through — not nearly as many tourists as the other major markets in Seoul. Directions: Google it.

### Hwanghak dong Flea Market

Who doesn't like flea markets? With a little digging, you'll find something special here. Sift through piles of antiques, "ancient" artifacts, junk from the war — old watches, cameras and tacky jewelry — anything you can imagine. To get here go to Sindang Station, Line 2, 6, and Exit 2.

## 4. Flowers

An easy way out if there ever was one: Buy your girlfriend some flowers for Christmas. Go the extra mile at Yangjae Flower Market, Gangnam Flower Market or Hansan Flower Market, where you can get custom made bouquets that will blow her away. Or do something special — buy some flowers wholesale and make the bouquet yourself. It won't be as nice, obviously, but it will be from the heart (and you'll save money, too!).

### Yangjae Flower Market

Quite a few nurseries in and around Seoul come here to sell their fresh flowers. Their auction room is quite a sight in the early hours of the day. Available here are flowers wholesale and retail. To get there from Itaewon, take bus 470, 471 or 140.

### Gangnam Flower Market

Across from the terminal building, Gangnam Flower Market is located on the third and fourth floors of the Daehae building. Buy any kind of flower you can imagine. Also check Terminal Flower Market in the underground shopping mall connected to Express Bus Terminal station.

## 5. Electronics

Seoul has one of the biggest electronics markets in the world. Yongsan Electronics Market has over 5,000 stores in about six main buildings selling computers, cameras, game consuls, appliances and cell phones. If it uses electricity — it's here. Annoying for some people: Be prepared to bargain a little for whatever it is you're buying.

Before you leave your house, price check on the Internet or risk getting fleeced. To get here, go to Yongsan Station, Line 1. Another option is Techno Mart — a 39-story shopping center known for its electronics stores and shaky foundation. Warning: In June, 17 middle-aged gym rats literally shook the building during a warm-up exercise, causing 500 people to flee. The mall hasn't been quite as robust since the incident. If you still want to risk it, go to Gangbyeon Station, Line 2, Exit 1,2.

## 6. Behemoth malls

Korea does everything big — especially malls. If you love shopping, there aren't many places in the same league as Seoul.

### COEX Mall

COEX in Samseong-dong claims to be the largest underground shopping center in Asia. COEX is in every guidebook written for Seoul, so I won't waste more space here. To get there, take the subway to Samseong Station, Line 2, Exits 5, 6.

### Lotte

Go to Lotte Department Store, then go ice skating, see a movie, go to Lotte World — the world's largest indoor theme park — a duty free shop and folk museum. If you have kids, or if you're a kid at heart, don't miss the daily Christmas Parade at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Adventure Theme Course.

## 7. Fashion

Start at Rodeo Drive, a hotspot for the latest high-end fashions. There are independent shops, department stores, theaters, upmarket cafes and parks. Come here to spend and be seen. It's a 10-minute walk from Exit 2, Apgujeong Station.

### Edae

The shopping area between Ewha Train Station and Ewha Woman's University is a popular destination for young women, as most shops specialize in affordable fashion. There are plenty of cafes and restaurants, too. Go to Ewha Woman's University Station.

### Myeong-dong

Myeong-dong is another of Seoul's shopping areas that's in pretty much every guidebook, so I'm not telling you anything you already don't already know. Go to Euljiro 1-ga Station, Line 2, Exit 6 or Myeong-dong Station, Line 4, Exit 6.

## 8. Markets

What would a Seoul shopping list be without a couple of its markets?

### Gwangjang Market

This is one of the country's oldest markets. Here you can pick up some great Christmas presents: silk anything or satin hanbok. Go to Euljiro 4(sa)-ga Station, Line 2,5, Exit 8.

### Dongdaemun Night Market

A classic outing — even if you're not into shopping — is the Dongdaemun Night Market. Come here to find some bargains, take photos, drink soem soju, or wander through an endless maze of fashion stalls. Go to the hilariously named Doota Department Store to stay warm. Get off at Dongdaemun Station, Line 1, 4, Exit 14.

## 9. Online

### Fake Ikea & G-Market

Get your shopping out of the way whilst sitting in your underwear in the comfort of your own home; save money and time by shopping online. Check out Gmarket, one of the biggest e-commerce sites in Korea (and the only one that's in English!) Expats have been waiting for Ikea to open its doors in Korea for years. Rumors persist that the global titan has purchased — or is looking for — land in Paju, north of Seoul. But until that actually happens, you'll have to settle for www.icompany.tv and www.diykorea.biz.

# KOREA BEAT

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First school of its kind will open in March of next year

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25 people used secret cameras to cheat on their KLPT

## BACKLASH GROWS AGAINST EDUCATION ..... 26

The first-ever Declaration to Reject University issued



### FTA with U.S. scares young Koreans: Poll

According to a recent poll, 54.7 percent of those in their 30s believe that the KORUS FTA will cause rampant mad cow disease throughout Korea. Also alarming was that almost half of those polled agreed with the statement: "If the KORUS FTA is passed, then our country will become a colony of the U.S. economy."

The Chosun Ilbo commissioned the Millward Brown Group to conduct a mobile phone survey of 500 adults between the ages of 20 and 49 nationwide.

Forty-eight percent believe that the KORUS FTA will make Korea vulnerable to American mad cows. Sixty-nine percent of women in their 30s said they are worried about mad cow disease, the survey found.

### Gay community alarmed by attacks in Jongno area

The gay community is alarmed by a rising number of attacks on homosexuals in Jongno. Many have taken to the Internet and Twitter to get their message of safety out. Some are warning of "homophobic lynch mob-style attacks" in the area.

However, only one incident has been reported to police. The reason for there being so few reports, according to the operator of a Twitter feed dedicated to homosexuals' rights, is that "most of the victims are college students in their 20s who live with their parents or men in their 40s who have families ... They have to keep their sexual identity secret and so they don't got to the police."

### Teacher convicted for 'sexting' with student

The Seoul High Courts' fourth criminal division overturned the decision of a trial court that had acquitted a professor of sexual harassment.

For three months beginning in October of 2009, the male teacher sent text messages his student. Some read, "If I hadn't met you, I don't know what would have happened!" and "I miss you." After the student complained, the teacher was fired for committing verbal sexual harassment.

The Seoul High Court judge said, "It appears that the two were close friends and only ordinary messages were exchanged... Mr A's removal was an abuse of power and against the law."

### Japanese cars imported to Korea from United States

Toyota Motor Corporation will begin exporting U.S.-made Sierra minivans to Korea. It is the first time that Toyota will sell cars in Korea that are fully manufactured in the United States.

The rising value of the yen against the won in exchange markets, declining profitability of Japanese exports, the Korea-U.S. free trade agreement that goes into effect in 2012, and the repeal of certain duties and tariffs all factored into the plan.

The numbers, however, are insignificant. Toyota barely does any business at all in Korea. Toyota hopes to ship about 600 U.S. made vans here.

## GROOVE KOREA

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ALL STORIES TRANSLATED BY NATHAN SCHWARTZMAN AT WWW.KOREABEAT.COM AND EDITED BY GROOVE KOREA FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.  
THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HERE DO NOT REPRESENT THOSE OF GROOVE KOREA. -- ED

## SEOUL SCHOOL TO OPEN FOR 'MULTICULTURAL' CHILDREN

The nation's first alternative school for children of "multicultural families" will soon open its doors in Guro-gu.

"Multicultural family" is a legal classification in Korea that refers to a marriage between a non-Korean and a Korean citizen.

The Seoul Office of Education announced that on March 1st of next year, the Global School, an elementary school for children of multicultural families, will operate as a regular school in the Oryu2-dong area of Guro-gu.

The Global School will offer a full elementary school curriculum from first to sixth grade (15 students per class, 90 in total) with 80 percent of the students being multicultural and 20 percent Korean, making for a somewhat integrated education.

The tuition and admission fees will be free, so that all children seeking multilingual and multicultural education will be able to attend.

The school's founder is 50-year-old Kim Hae-seong, a pastor who has been known as "the godfather of foreign laborers" for the over-20 years he has spent helping and counseling migrant workers.

"We will operate this school with various plans in order to uphold our societal responsibility to create a leading model for alternative schools for children of multicultural families," said Kim.

The Global School will begin accepting applications in December.

"There have been many cases of students who have dropped out or been ostracized at school because of an inability to speak Korean or their parents' economic circumstances," said an official with the Office of Education. "The Global School's establishment will provide opportunities for children of multicultural families to find their identities at the border of regular education and for our society to raise all of its members to be healthy."

According to the Office of Education, last year there were 5,222 multicultural students in Seoul's elementary, middle, and high schools, 65% of whom are in elementary school. This year that increased nearly 31% percent to 6,837. Most multicultural students - 1,237 - reside in Guro, Geumcheon, and Yeongdeungpo.

Call (02) 6910-1004 to arrange a consultation or go to [www.globalsarang.com](http://www.globalsarang.com) for more information.

## CHINESE KLPT CHEATING RING UNCOVERED IN SEOUL

A group of students was found to have cheated on the Korean Language Proficiency Test using "button video cameras," it was reported last month.

One student had attached a tiny video camera shaped like a button to his clothes to record the questions and answers. It transmitted to an outside computer. The tiny wireless camera clearly showed the test questions - transmitting them to a computer 300 meters away.

People fluent in Korean who viewed the video provided the correct answers, and the Chinese international test-takers listened through wireless earphones and circled the correct answers.

Twenty-two-year-old Ma and two others from China colluded with 23-year-old Yang, a Chinese international student, and 18 others to use this method on the KLPT that was administered on Oct. 23.

Each of them paid 300,000 won - over 6 million won in total.

"International students cannot graduate if they cannot pass the KLPT. It's absolutely necessary," said one suspect in the case, explaining his motive.

The KLPT and similar exams have become increasingly popular due to Chinese nationals seeking jobs in Korea and the Korean Wave raising the profile of Korean culture overseas.

Last year, the number of KLPT test takers dropped to 1.06 million before increasing to 1.2 million this year.

Police arrested Ma and two others with detention, and arrested the 25 Chinese international students without detention.

## BACKLASH GROWING AGAINST OVER-EDUCATION OF SOCIETY

A small but growing number of Korean students are bucking the country's strenuous educational system.

"We just go to college because we get this idea stuffed in our head that we have to get great grades, graduate and get a job. We don't think about it, we just do what everybody else is doing," said 24-year-old Kim Seo-rin.

She is among the founders of a group who recently issued The First Declaration to Reject University. She dropped out of university after only one semester. Kim said the seeds of doubt were sown after she took out a loan to pay for her tuition.

"I hate this university structure where you have to study for work. I began to see it as an empty shell - as being all fake," she said. "I often hear that we should stop fooling around. Is it fooling around to not have a set path? I don't know that we have to take the safe and tested path, the one that society demands."

Twenty-six-year-old Kim Dong-hyeok, who left school after two semesters of studying sociology, said he dropped out because his dream is to be a musician, and attending university was only leading him further away from his ultimate goal and toward a lifeless, boring, office job. "The idea that we have to get high grades creates this society with expensive tuition. So many things are connected to this worship of grades, and people who see other problems are labeled immature 'university refuseniks,'" he said.

"To get good grades, you borrow money to go to school. Tuition piles up. Four thousand won an hour jobs don't cut it. You're basically a slave. The problem is that society gives you no choice but to go to university."

Others say they are leaving university to find the "true value of life."

Kim Seo-rin said "true studying" is reading books and travelling.

Popular culture is picking up on the trend.

This year, musician Kim Dong-hyeok put out an album based on the over-education of society named "Refresh-ing Punishment" and plans to tour next year.

"We don't know if we regret quitting university, but if we hadn't we would regret that more," said Kim. "Even if you graduate, you lose your life in the competition for jobs and promotions."

## VIETNAMESE MAN GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR KILLING

Last month, Judge Park In-shik of the Uijeongbu District Courts' 11th criminal division sentenced a 24-year-old Vietnamese man to life in prison for brutally murdering two Korean co-workers and injuring another.

The judge wrote that, "The defendant was drinking with three co-workers, close friends of his, when he misunderstood their conversation, flew into a rage and committed this crime ... He attempted to murder one and brutally murdered the other two, so a severe punishment cannot be avoided."

At approximately 1:35 a.m. on Aug. 17, "Mr. P" was drinking with three Korean co-workers from the furniture factory they worked at in Pocheon. It has been reported that he misunderstood something they said as an anti-foreigner insult before flying off the handle and using an unknown weapon to kill 20-year-old Lee and 21-year-old Gu, before injuring another Lee, also 20 years old.

The Vietnamese man was unavailable for an interview.

The judge wrote further: "It is difficult to see the victims as having been at fault in any amount, and no settlement was reached with their family ... Although the defendant has no prior record and has expressed remorse, a life sentence cannot be avoided."

Legal experts point out that courts have been inconsistent with murder sentences recently.

In October, a woman was sentenced to only four years in jail after she kicked her stepson to death. In the case, the judge commended the killer for admitting her errs and pledging to receive counseling while incarcerated.

After killing her young son in a fit of rage in her bathroom, the woman finished her bath.



# Regulations considered for mail-order brides

by KOREA BEAT

In May of 2009, a Vietnamese woman moved to Korea to marry who she thought was the man of her dreams after being introduced through an international marriage broker.

Instead what she found was a living hell. Her mother-in-law was abusive and the woman said it wasn't until months later that she realized her husband was mentally handicapped.

Because of a growing number of instances like this, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family said it plans to require both spouses be present when registering an international marriage.

"Each spouse receives information about the other from the marriage broker, but many times divorce occurs because the reliability of the information is low and the marriage breaks down from the beginning," said Lee gi-sun, head of family policy at the ministry. "Our goal is to have each spouse affirm their true marital intentions at the time they register their marriage, before the visa is issued."

The ministry is also considering a requirement for international marriages involving the top seven countries (China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan) that would force the foreign spouse to visit Korea on a tourist visa first. Critics of this plan say it would be economically burdensome and might even cripple the mail-order bride industry.

These countries have already instituted laws to require both spouses meet outside of Korea.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, sensitive to discrimination amongst Koreans and foreigners, is also considering requiring spouses to attend the marriage registration in all cases, regardless if a foreigner is involved or not.

However, the Ministry of Justice said, "If registration requirements are tightened for multicultural families only then there could be problems of fairness and discrimination, and there would also be the issue of the recent trend towards relaxed regulations."

*"Each spouse receives information about the other from the marriage broker, but many times divorce occurs because the reliability of the information is low and the marriage breaks down from the beginning,"*

Illustration by DANIELA VARGAS



## ANALYSIS

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Stephanie Potell chronicles the people and businesses in her officetel

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Irish ambassador lays it all out for those who weren't sure





Illustration by BARRET THOMSON -

# How well do you know your Neighbors?

by STEPHANIE POTELL

If one were to map my routine trajectory, they would note that I descend five flights of stairs every morning en route to work. Exiting the stairwell, I make a right and head down a narrow hallway used as a makeshift pantry before leaving my building. However, my skimpy daily expedition would make a pathetic map. After a year in Seoul, my home has become a familiar raft floating on an unknown sea. I have no idea what businesses occupy the floors beneath me, nor what they even look like. I decided it was time to recruit my Korean friend Lia to translate my curiosity and to help me explore the business/residential combo that is my officetel.

Meet my neighbors:

*"I have no idea what businesses occupy the floors beneath me, nor what they even look like. I decided it was time to recruit my Korean friend Lia to translate my curiosity and to help me explore the business/residential combo that is my officetel."*

## Chamjoun Gositel: 3rd floor

One of the most intriguing discoveries I made was the gositel residence. "Gosi" literally means a test that requires years of study, especially for those aspiring to be lawyers or government officials. Therefore, these catacomb-sized rooms are traditionally sought out by young adults requiring absolute quiet.

Given an apartment deposit in my building runs between 5 million to 10 million won, gositel are also popular amongst office men in need of cheap temporary lodging. Including utilities, these tiny furnished rooms with a shared kitchen require no deposit and will only set one back 200,000 won a month.

Inside the claustrophobic entrance of the Chamjoun Gositel, there is a small sign taped to the glass window of the reception booth stating cell phone use and visitors are prohibited. Unimpressed by the dusty fake floral arrangements and the distant sound of a crying baby, Lia concluded that down-and-out people might want to hide in this coed residence. "Nobody can track their identity as long as they pay for a small room. Who knows, maybe even a policeman cannot find them," she explained after painting a dire picture of fugitives on the run.

## The Office Men: 3rd floor

A balding man with carefully combed tufts of hair sits behind a large desk at the entrance of Ju Hana Jeongbotongsi. Dark circles almost engulf his eyes while the ash from his lit cigarette precariously hovers over a plate of sliced tomatoes. Above his head a mounted black fan circulates the cloud of smoke throughout the office. It is just after 7 p.m., so most of the workers have finished and their microphone headsets are hanging from a short blue cubicle wall. With a bemused expression, the owner tells me for

the last six years he has run a telephone help center for the credit card transaction machines retailers use. To illustrate the point, an employee picks up a small card reader and wiggles the visual aid at me.

## 24 Hour Pool Hall: 3rd floor

Watching the five or so older men quietly playing makes my friend feel uncomfortable. Despite the room's brilliant illumination, she anxiously tells me, "Pool halls are one of the most dangerous places. Gangsters love to hang out with their friends here, especially in this kind of cheaper building." As we survey the large room stuffed with green and blue pool tables, the men return our gaze through the glass window. "Can you notice they are looking at us with suspicious eyes?" Although I don't detect sinister thoughts tucked beneath their dress shirts and thinning hair, we nevertheless continue on to the second level.

## 24 Hour Thai Massage: 2nd floor

Inside a giant reception area that resembles a living room, the proprietors are slouched in chairs against the wall and glued to the television. Between pivotal reality TV scenes I manage to eke out details concerning their services. Never having had a massage, I ask what it is that makes a massage "Thai." Perhaps too difficult to explain during commercial breaks, I am instead told that a one-hour session from a Thai or Korean masseuse costs 50,000 won. Despite discovering their busiest time is from 10 p.m. onwards, Lia throws her usually fastidious nature to the wind and excitedly exclaims, "How about trying it next time?"



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## Agit Point: Cocktail, Coffee and Hof: 2nd floor

The curtain of leaf-shaped beads leads into a dim and smoky greenhouse. We choose a private red velvet booth by the window with a TV blaring talk show scenarios above us. Plants adorn the windowsill and jostle with the neon signs for the best view of the neighborhood. My partner picks the house coffee, which somehow combines the flavor of instant coffee mix and medicine into one concentrated 3,000 won cup. While I suggest pouring the contents into one of pots to spare the owner's feelings, we decide she must take more pride in her plants than her coffee. The quince tea I order is delivered in a handmade ceramic cup with shredded fruit and pine nuts floating on top. The tea is syrupy sweet and although I enjoy the atmosphere, next time I would purchase something bottled and without the owner's kind touch.

## The Butcher: 1st floor

Located at the heart of the building, the pork from Nongpyeok is gently illuminated behind a glass case by pink neon light. For the past 10 years, the slender butcher with a short masculine haircut has exclusively supplied the officetel restaurants with meat. Although the shop is usually locked up, she remains on call during the day with a sign in the window listing her number. Her manner appears casual yet tough, the kind of tom boy that sees no incongruity in wearing a sweater vest with a cherubic embroidered puppy while carving pig carcasses.

## PC Bang: 1st floor

Currently the black painted room is sparsely filled with armchairs, computers, and customers. However, in the past I used to see old men quietly studying every gleaming chrome surface and backlit button of the slot machines before them. These men never approached the machines though; they just sat in contemplation with their cigarettes limply dangling from their hands. I could hear the sounds of jackpots ringing in their thoughts while their hands never veered from their cigarette-to-mouth course.

As her shop faces the PC bang, I ask the butcher if she knows why the slot machines had suddenly disappeared one day. "They were reported and confiscated by the police," my friend translates. "Now that they are earning less money, the owners want to sell their property."

To better understand her surroundings and neighbors, author Stephanie Potell set out on a journey to chronicle the people and businesses within her officetel — a mixed use residential-commercial apartment complex. The opinions do not necessarily represent those of Groove Korea. To comment, send a message to [opinion@groovekorea.com](mailto:opinion@groovekorea.com). — Ed.

*"It's not like the Gangnam-gu area, which is clean, has lots of students and is secure." With fortuitous timing, an old woman begins cursing in a nearby hall as if to highlight the comparison my friend has made. "This symbolizes that this area is dark, and hidden and filthy. You are staying in a very poor area."*

## Dry Cleaners: 1st floor

Sitting on a small sofa amongst racks of plastic-sleeved clothes, the owner is watching a wall-mounted TV. She tells me for the past 10 years she has weathered the rapid turnover which affects many businesses in Seoul by receiving a steady flow of customers from within the officetel. After explaining her services, she quickly mentions that the neighborhood is a safe and respectable place to be. While I am inclined to agree, her statement has the opposite effect on my friend. "Why do you think she said that even though we didn't ask?" Lia queries me. "Because this area is for sexual activities and she wants to defend her neighborhood."

## The Nail in the Coffin: 1st floor

Exiting the dry cleaners and adjacent to the security office, we find ourselves before a casino PC bang. Lia points out the "adults only" sign while suggesting I take a photo of the flashy and colorful decal, which obscures the whole window. "It's not like the Gangnam-gu area, which is clean, has lots of students and is secure." With fortuitous timing, an old woman begins cursing in a nearby hall as if to highlight the comparison my friend has made. "This symbolizes that this area is dark, and hidden and filthy. You are staying in a very poor area."

While my friend might be worried about me, I now find the bustling economic activity below me comforting. The bored expressions from the nail technicians are reliable while the prune-like B1 sauna customers feel safe and clean.

In attempting to demystify the officetel, I have begun to tame the vast unknown that exists within my home. Now when I pass the butcher strolling between the back doors of restaurants I smile and greet her because I understand where we belong in each other's world.

Welcome!  
ウェルカム!  
欢迎光临!  
Chào mừng quý khách!  
ТАВТАЙ МОРИЛНО УУ!  
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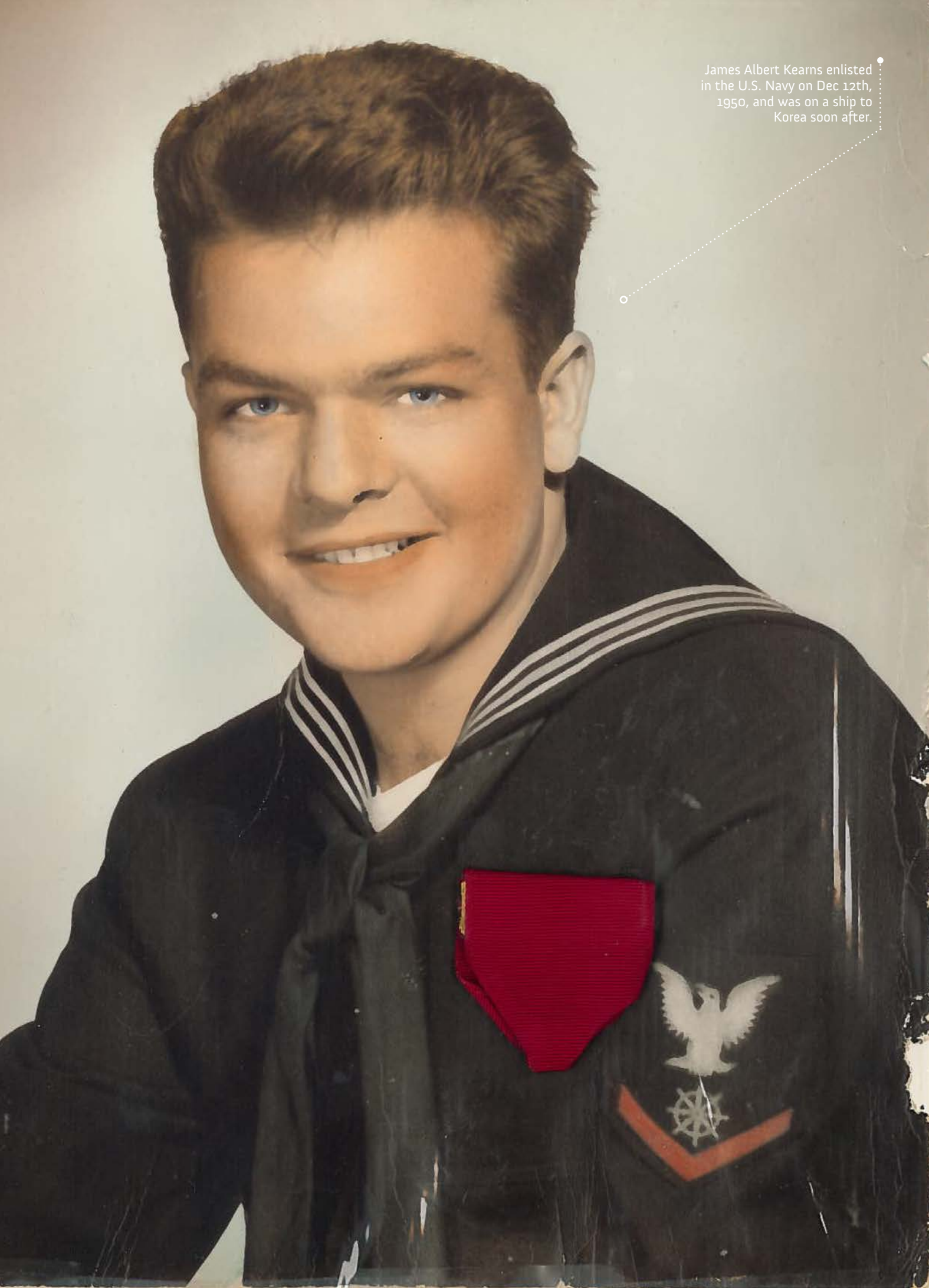


Web: [www.shinhan.com/en](http://www.shinhan.com/en)



Facebook: Shinhan Bank Seoul Global Center





James Albert Kearns enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Dec 12th, 1950, and was on a ship to Korea soon after.



## An American vet looks back on the Korean War

by KATHY KEARNS  
photos courtesy of JAMES A. KEARNS

*“Truman let Russia tell us what they wanted to do and everybody jumped, which we shouldn’t have done. We should have told them to go fuck themselves.” --*

*James Albert Kearns*

James Albert Kearns, known as Jim, started out down a rough path in life. Shortly after his birth he was left at an orphanage in Brooklyn and barely survived his first few years. Small and weak, he was often sick and overlooked for adoption. Fast-forward 19 years – he’s full of life. Kearns passes his military entrance exam with flying colors and entered the Navy just as the Korean War was under way. Now at age 80, Jim – a devoted New York Giants fan, lover of big band music, cancer survivor and father of five children with five grandchildren – looks back on the “Forgotten War” and some of the most memorable events while serving his country. This is not your typical war story, but a unique and colorful perspective from the eyes of your everyday serviceman. The type of man whose story is not often told, but whose dedication and sacrifice formed the backbone of the U.S. effort in the Korean War.

He’s my father, and this is his story.

### When did you enlist in the Navy?

I went in on Dec. 12, 1950.

### So the war was already going on when you enlisted?

Yes, the Korean War started June 1950, so it was in full blast. The Chinese came in in November with 5,000 or 6,000 men, but we only had a couple hundred men on the front. So it was like suicide fighting these guys because they were outnumbering us. Everybody thought the war would be over in a couple of weeks, but they didn’t realize that we were fighting against loads of Communist troops.

### What was it like to join the Navy while the Korean War was going on?

When the Korean War started they had to get 2,000-3,000 guys into the service real fast. Most of the rates (jobs) for the Navy were filled in by guys who had been in WWII. They figured there would never be another war after WWII, which was what we all thought, so they signed up in the Reserve. I had a guy on my ship who was 55 years old. He was called back. Can you believe that? We called him Papa Fisher. We couldn’t believe that he was that old. I’ll never forget the guy. He was so funny. He had no teeth so he had to put his false teeth back in his mouth when he’d talk.

Guys like Fisher joined the Reserves to get cheaper cigarettes, cheaper cameras and other things, never thinking they’d be called back. That’s when I got my first movie camera for about \$15 or something like that. These guys were so pissed off they had to come back because WWII was supposed to be the “war to end all wars.”

No other war was ever going to happen. But Stalin wanted to have this invasion of Korea and he thought that America would not fight for this piece of land. It was quite an insult to him that we sacrificed so many troops.

Boot camp was about 16 weeks, but they cut it down to eight weeks for me. They wanted us to get out and get on ships, because the ships were in demand. After WWII we mistakenly thought we could relax a little bit, so we were in pretty bad shape as far as having a full Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and all that. You know? We were on demand and the Russians had more planes and tanks than we ever had or thought to have, because that’s all they did for five years was just build their armed forces. They could start any kind of war and they would win, but they didn’t know they were going to fight us Americans in Korea and we fought real hard to defeat them.

### What was your role in the Navy/Korean War?

I wasn’t able to strike for a rate for two years, since all those guys from WWII were called back in and there were no rates open. So I was on the deck force for two years doing every crappy thing you could think of like shining garbage cans with brillo pads, painting the side of the ship and shining the steel deck.

Finally after two years, I had the chance to go to a Quartermaster school in Bainbridge, Maryland, for navigation and signaling. I learned how to operate the signal lights, how to do celestial navigation, how to steer a ship and many other things. It was a very complex rate. Once I got the rate I was considered a Navy Seaman Quartermaster Striker and I had a steering wheel with three stripes on my sleeve.





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## KOREAN WAR

### A Signalman?

All the ships I was on were ships from WWII. The biggest ships, like the battleships, had 16-inch guns that could shoot 20 miles off cost and they'd hit the target. Our ship didn't have that kind of equipment. Ours was an old rust bucket from WWII. When I got my equipment from the N My second ship was the PCEC 873 (Patrol Craft Escort Control), which was a patrol craft that would escort convoys of ships to protect them from any submarines. We would also patrol the beaches and areas where there might have been enemies. We didn't have much armory, so the under the water. I think we ripped off their periscope or something because they didn't do anything. They couldn't see anything. But it was crazy.

### What kinds of ships were you on?

All the ships I was on were ships from WWII. The biggest ships, like the battleships, had 16-inch guns that could shoot 20 miles off cost and they'd hit the target. Our ship didn't have that kind of equipment. Ours was an old rust bucket from WWII. When I got my equipment from the Navpea coat was from WWII. I didn't get first class things. In fact, some of the sea rations were even from WWII. My first ship was the LST 242 (Landing Ship Tank) a WWII, flat bottom ship that could land on the beach and it easunder the water. I think we ripped off their periscope or something because they didn't do anything. They couldn't see anything. But it was crazy.

### Where was that?

In the Atlantic someplace. They were taking pictures of New York City with their cameras on the submarine. They wanted to control the Panama Canal. They were ready to start a global war, but the Korean War sort of stopped their ideas of taking over the world. So from there, I only had one more year to go and I was transferred to the U.S.S. Navarro APA 215, which was an attack transport and cargo ship. We'd pick up 1,500 Marines down in Morehead City, N.C. and cargo (tanks, jeeps, army trucks, artillery, etc.) and would bring them overseas to the Korean War, to Busan. But when we got over there the last time, the war ended, so they didn't need our ship or us. But it wasn't really an end to the war, it was an armistice, because the Communists were still building up troops and Russian equipment. They were still shooting at us even though the war was over. It was bullshit.

### Do you have any specific stories that you remember as being particularly extraordinary?

The old man, Captain Marker, he worked his way up the ranks and he loved to do celestial navigation. He was a great man. I really admired him. One time we were studying the stars down by the Panama Canal and he said, "Kearns, what's the name of those stars up there?"

## KOREAN WAR

And I thought, what is he nuts? I didn't know the names of all of those stars. And if I did, I couldn't pronounce them. And as he's talking this long silver rocket ship comes straight down from the sky and hovers right over our heads. It had two white lights, like headlights, and a green and a red light, like a ship. It stayed over our ship for about five minutes and then it turned up and in a matter of seconds it was in the heavens. We never had anything that fast. My hair on my arms was standing straight up. I took my hat off and the hair on my head was standing up, too. Marker and I looked at each other and I said, "Should I mark this down in the Navy log?" And he said, "No, don't put it in there, they won't believe it. If we did they'd have us in a straight jacket in Section 8."

### How do you feel about Truman's direction during the war?

Truman let Russia tell us what they wanted to do and everybody jumped, which we shouldn't have done. We should have told them to go fuck themselves. But Truman wasn't like MacArthur. MacArthur said, "There's no substitute for victory." And he wanted to destroy all Communism. The Korean War was on for three years from '50 through '53 and we lost over 36,000 American boys, but we shouldn't have lost any, because we had the most powerful country in the world. It's a shame. There were all these American boys that died in prison camps in China or in Manchuria. They died of broken hearts. They say it was "The Forgotten War." It's because Mr. Truman decided it was going to be a forgotten war and fuck the American boys who were going to die fighting there. And most of them were young boys that were just 18 years old. Truman called the Korean War a "police action," when in reality it was one of the most brutal wars in history. They said that Stalin killed 80,000 citizens in Korea. The man was a butcher. He didn't believe in God because he was an Atheist (although he was an ex-priest). He died in '53 thank God. God called him and then he probably sent him right to hell, the son of a bitch.

### When you think back on the war what stands out the most?

Truman being an asshole and fucking everything up.



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# What good is your embassy?

by EAMONN MCKEE  
Ambassador of Ireland in South Korea



*“Ireland’s engagement with Korea goes back to the 1890s when one of Emperor’s closest advisers was an Irishman, McLeavey Brown.”*

We now live in an age of networking, but nothing beats face-time. An embassy is face-time between two countries. You learn about your host in a way that is otherwise impossible by living here. And you impart knowledge about Ireland with similar intensity.

The embassy acts as radar, looking for opportunities to deepen relations. For example, Deputy Prime Minister Eamonn Gilmore recently met Minister for Unification Yu woo-ik. They explored sharing lessons on cross-border cooperation. Korean unification will happen either like the German model – very quickly – or it can be managed over time, possibly generations, like in the Irish case, where two consenting sovereign entities agreed to very structured cooperation on matters of mutual interest.

The visit of our deputy prime minister, or Tánaiste to give him his proper Irish title, was an example of another function of the Embassy. Visits at government level are absolutely vital to refreshing bilateral relations and stimulating initiatives.

We are also here to serve the Irish community abroad. In Korea, we have some 900 Irish, most of them teaching English, and of course regular visitors and tourists. That means helping out individuals who need advice, support or consular assistance. It also means supporting the Irish community like the Seoul Gaels hosting the Asian Gaelic Games and the Irish Chamber of Commerce’s organisation of the Asia Pacific Ireland Business Forum last October.

The Embassy must look to the broad picture of our relations with Korea. I noticed for example that Ireland’s engagement with Korea goes back to the 1890s when one of emperor’s closest advisers was an Irishman, McLeavey Brown. We had over 160 Irish die fighting during the Korean War. Irish missionaries like the Columban Fathers and Sisters have been here since the 1930s and 1950s, respectively. However, no history book exists on this and so we have agreed with the Royal Irish Academy to research and publish one. You can check out a summary of this history on the Embassy’s website ([www.embassyofireland.kr.or](http://www.embassyofireland.kr.or)). Also, anyone interested in getting messages from me on our activities at the Embassy can register with us via our website.

Finally of course, writing articles like this is a function of an Embassy; by asking the question you give us a platform to engage in what we call public diplomacy. Thanks for the opportunity.



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## A PEEK AT THE LUMINOUS ONE ..... 42

The stories you've heard about Varanasi are all true

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This is the highest place I've ever stood – this is the top of Kenya

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# A peek at the Luminous One

India  
Uttar Pradesh

photos and story by COLIN ROOHAN

VARANASI, India – The stories you hear about Varanasi are all true: monkeys, cows, rivers, ghats, alleys, crowds, smells, corpses, cremations, touts. Every bit of it. The birthplace of the Hindu deity Shiva, this city on the Ganges has appeared in Hindu texts for thousands of years. Varanasi, also called “The Luminous One,” is a propitious place for Hindus in India and throughout the world. They come to rinse their sins away in the river. It is also believed that dying and being cremated in Varanasi frees a person’s soul from its cycle of wandering.

A walk or boat ride along the ghats (a broad set of steps providing access to the water) at dusk is the must-do experience of Varanasi. To put it bluntly, life is what transpires at the ghats. They are otherworldly and seem to have a pulse of their own. They’re a microcosm of India. In my pre-trip research on Varanasi I read mostly about the ghats and the sights they contain, tips on the do’s and don’ts of public cremation etiquette, and how to successfully haggle with boatmen. I also read never, ever, under any circumstance to touch the water of the Ganges for fear of your feeble foreigner skin disintegrating.

*“To put it bluntly, life is what transpires at the ghats. They are otherworldly and seem to have a pulse of their own.”*

The Lonely Planet only briefly mentions what is known as the Old City, which is the maze of narrow alleyways bordered with countless shops, temples and guesthouses. If the ghats are the heart of Varanasi, the Old City’s alleyways are its veins.

I found I couldn’t swivel my head fast enough to keep up with the commotion. One second I’d have to squeeze my body against the walls for a loaded motorbike to snake through. The next second I’d be stopped dead in my tracks by a massive bull staring into my eyes. This is a traveler’s playground, a dangerous merry-go-round that throws kids off left and right with no regret. Rules? Nah, who needs them? The Old City has no rules. As a photojournalist and traveler I highly recommend immersing yourself in it. If it weren’t for clothing labels and government guards toting automatic weapons I may have been confused about which century I was in. Browse the markets and chat with friendly vendors. Enjoy the hand-painted advertisements draped in dust from decades of abuse, while you stroll past sipping a Thums Up. You’ll enjoy your experience in Varanasi all the more.



Another world  
Varanasi’s Old City area seems  
divorced from modernity.





# Climbing giants in Kenya

photos and story by ROGER GRIBBINS

*“The landscape is Martian. Dense green groundcover and tan dirt. Jagged little rock cliffs sporadically dot the valley walls surrounding our path.”*

MT. KENYA NATIONAL PARK – Nanyuki is a small town 50 clicks north of Mt Kenya. The “matatu” ride there is full of jarring metal thuds and seatbelt-popping jerks, and takes about three hours from Nairobi. We pass mountains of red dirt and earthmoving machines, large cement blocks and workers constructing the new superhighway that will cut the journey time in half. Men with silt-filled crow’s feet stand sweating through tattered shirts in the early African sun. Shovels. Rebar. Bulldozers. Dirt.

Our guide, Moses, a 32-year-old Kenyan with 13 years of experience leading hikers to the summit of Mt Kenya, sits close to my right. My wife, Amber, to my left. We are squeezed into the metal matatu like a child squeezes plastic figurines into a toy truck. The reckless hand of youth forces the van over rough terrain, and the heater inside slowly cooks our legs and feet.

The matatu pulls into the bus port of Nanyuki and we are immediately swarmed by peddlers and pushers and desperate family people who only want to make a buck carrying our bags to the hotel; but in the afternoon glare and shimmering heat we can’t distinguish and we grab our bags and follow Moses down the cracked dirt road to Nanyuki Simba’s Lodge, home for the night before morning departure to Sirimon Gate.

After lunch at Simba’s lodge, Jespat, part of the tour company, greets us for an acclimatization hike that turns out to be a slow stroll through a variety of tourist traps, vendors and equator photo ops, and goes no further than a few clicks around Nanyuki (elevation actually lower than that of Nairobi, where we spent the last two days).

The excursion culminates with a walk through a local slum where Jespat offers to point to a door where we can buy ganja and chang’aa (a local moonshine that causes blindness or death). He cannot come with us. Both substances are highly illegal in Kenya. But he knows of a place where we can procure both substances, as many of his clients like to do. We respectfully decline.

In the morning a taxi drops us at Sirimon Gate at the base of Mt Kenya; a cool breeze adds further chill to the overcast morning. A sea of porters waits for work. Our crew is packing and shuffling and repacking. Moses our guide. Elijah our cook. Samuel our porter. This is the first time Amber and I will hike with porters and guides. We feel conflicted. The glory of summit earned on the backs of others. Cheating. We have hiked for days before through mountains with bear canisters and collapsible stoves and instant food and pots and pans and surfboards and wetsuits and bags that weigh over 50 pounds. For the first time someone else will carry our load. We feel guilty, and have one piercing thought: How are these guys going to carry all this stuff? After the trip, we tip double and give the crew hiking gear.

The first nine kilometers are a rutted and rock-studded fire road. Moses walks a turtle’s pace and patiently answers our questions about the mountain, Africa, and his life. His red hat is a beacon rounding each turn. He methodically paces himself and barely drinks water. A slow but steady climb through the low lands and we reach Old Moses Camp (no relation to our guide) at 3,300 meters (11,000 feet). The semi-permanent hosts, sitting on a rocky bastion and, strangely, texting on cell phones, greet us. Old Moses Camp is a U-shaped structure made of wooden walls, corrugated metal roofs, and simple glass windows. Two solar panels sit on tall poles in the courtyard. The entire structure is painted pine green. A radio broadcasts a Kenyan station. A mix of reggae and African and Island music and the occasional banter of the DJ permeate the thin air.

Accommodations are six dorm-style cubbyholes with four bunk beds pressed into each room, two flush toilets missing their seats, and a row of picnic tables for eating and storytelling. Outside there are benches made of rocks with planks of wood stretched across, with sweeping views of the scrublands below us and the ominous mountain tips looming before us. The cloud cover dissipates for a flash and we catch a glimpse of the peaks, but otherwise we are soaked in with intermittent blasts of sun ripping through small punctures in the clouds. We pass the time playing Cribbage on a hand-drawn Crib board, and slowly adjust to the wispy air.

The fraternity of porters is gathered on a rock prominence, talking and smoking. Their existence is difficult to comprehend. Surviving by walking up and down these trails and peaks and twists and turns, three times a month during the high season. In a country that every cab driver and shop clerk promptly declares corrupt, where an endless barrage of eyes full of scorn and pain and wild forlorn pierces your conscience, there are few alternatives.

We leave Old Moses the next morning and catch glimpses of the peaks of Mt. Kenya. Batián, at 5,199 meters (17,057 feet), and Nelion, at 5,188 meters (17,021 feet), both require technical climbing and a fair amount of technical experience. Ropes. Carabineers. Crampons. Special knots with special names. We are accessing Point Lenana at 4,985 meters (16,355 feet) by foot, but the immediate ridges before us hide our target. It is the highest point in Kenya that can be accessed simply by walking, and the second tallest peak in Africa behind Mt. Kilimanjaro. The sun blazes on us as we meander through high elevation scrubland. We cover two small ridges in three hours and float soft conversation with another couple and their guide.

After stopping for lunch we follow a valley and its river upstream and slowly climb toward the summit directly in front of us; the clouds pass and we are awarded snippets of all three peaks.



Done deal  
The author celebrates at the summit with his wife, Amber.



Smiles everywhere  
The trek takes you through small Kenyan villages.



The descent  
The first nine kilometers of the trail are rock-studded.

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# TO SHIPTON

“MY HEADLAMP GOES OUT, AND GOES OUT AGAIN AFTER REPLACING THE BATTERIES, BUT IT IS NOT NEEDED. THE MOON AND THE STARS AND THE PRE-DAWN LIGHT ARE ENOUGH TO ILLUMINATE THE SLOPE.”

The landscape is Martian. Dense green groundcover and tan dirt. Jagged little rock cliffs sporadically dot the valley walls surrounding our path. Giant Lobelia freckle the valley adding spikes of green along the sloping walls. Like plants from a Dr. Seuss book, Lobelia has a thin stalk of grayish brown fibers that support the wide green plume of broad leaves on top. The classic spiky broad leaf, longer than a foot, sitting in layers reaching for the sun, and the older layers from previous years forming a decaying brown clump between stalk and mature leaf. They are everywhere once we climb above 3,600 meters.

The final push to Shipton Camp at 4,200 meters (13,800 feet) is a slow ascent through the last kilometer of the valley. Shipton is almost identical to Old Moses. Green barracks with bunk bed dorms and a long stretch of picnic tables for eating and storytelling in front of a fireplace. Charred bricks speak of campfires passed, but there is no wood to fuel the hearth tonight. We take tea when we arrive and sit outside, directly below the summit. Interspersed cloud cover persists through the afternoon. We are in striking distance of the summit. Jagged purple cliffs loom over us and the sun sets at our backs and the endless clouds sweep in and disappear and sweep in and disappear. The most beautiful spot for afternoon tea.

The next morning we wake to clear skies wrapping the peaks that horseshoe around Shipton Camp. A silent cadre of jagged volcanic rock piercing the deep blue. Not a single cloud molests the morning sky. Today is an acclimatization day that will allow our capillaries to further adjust to their newly constricted existence, and tonight we take those capillaries to the summit.

After breakfast we set out over a ridge to the west, to Oblong Lake. The peak of the ridge lies about 300 meters below Point Lenana, a creviced tease coming into sharp focus through the zoom lens. We walk with Moses “pole-pole”, slowly slowly, and the towering peaks of Mt. Kenya rise beckoning to our left. Like methodic elephants we climb the ridge of loose rock and gravel, sucking air that is thin but pure. Moses walks ahead, for the first time putting some distance between us, and meets another guide on the spine of the ridge. Amazingly, shockingly, the guides are talking on cell phones when we arrive; they are using the ridge as an opportunity to solidify the exit details of our party back to Nairobi and for the securing of the next trek up to the highest point in Kenya.

From the ridge, Shipton Camp is a green speck hugged into the head of the valley behind us. Ahead of us is Oblong Lake, and another lake shimmering in the morning glare, the name of which Moses has forgotten. The descent to Oblong Lake, bounding and launching through large deposits of ping-pong-ball-sized rocks and smaller filler gravel, combined with the stabilization of our trekking poles, is quick and exhilarating: African Skiing. The pitch a perfect steepness. Dropping low and leaping in long strides with the knees bent. We crunch down the pitch with the cool breeze rushing up and quickly reach Oblong Lake. A spring-fed lake about the size of two football fields. It is moss green and dark brown and deep shades of slate blue and absolutely inviting. We ask Moses about the safety of the lake and after confirmation we quickly remove our clothing and plunge into the freezing blue. The swim is brief but exhilarating, our first bath in days, the perfect morning swim on the roof of Kenya.

After snacks we climb back to Shipton and have lunch and play Cribbage, followed by tea and an early dinner, and then we are in bed. We leave at 3 a.m. for the summit in order to arrive at sunrise. At sunrise, we will watch the slopes of Mt. Kenya fall away below and feel the pulse of the giant heart-beat of the slums and ghettos and bustling metropolises, of the children and adults and lions and zebras and wildebeests, and everything else caught in the arteries and veins of East Africa.

At 2 a.m. we wake up and have ginger snaps, hot tea and toast. It is difficult to eat at this hour, at this elevation, and on this morning. We walk outside to black, crisp skies with tumbling stars and a soft crescent moon in the east. The Milky Way peeling directly off the peak of Mt. Kenya. A sparkled rooster tail pulsing through the heavens. Wearing thermal underwear and long pants, a down jacket on top of a fleece jacket, gloves, two pairs of socks, boots, wool hats, head lamps and trekking poles, we set off for Point Lenana in the darkness.

It is only three kilometers from Shipton to the summit, but we move at a crawl. Sucking wind with every breath and meticulously placing one foot in front of the other, one pole plant synchronized with each crunching step. We pass a group of two dozen British students, and that is the only time Moses intentionally picks up the pace. Otherwise it is pole-pole all the way. Our headlamps illuminate a swatch of mountain one step ahead. The face is visible but the features are absent.

My headlamp goes out, and goes out again after replacing the batteries, but it is not needed. The moon and the stars and the pre-dawn light are enough to illuminate the slope.

The air is shallow. Hard to find. Coordination is difficult and takes concentration. When I slip, I catch myself but it feels clumsy and awkward like I am falling through water. I’m not afraid of falling or sliding down the mountain, but I am definitely not firing on all cylinders. Mild dizziness and nausea and the mental battle of this feat. The mountain feels more alien than ever in the mix of headlamps in front of me and moonlight above, and the group of students we passed now looks like a centipede below us slowly slinking up the switchbacks – an LED bulb atop each body segment. We continue our ascent.

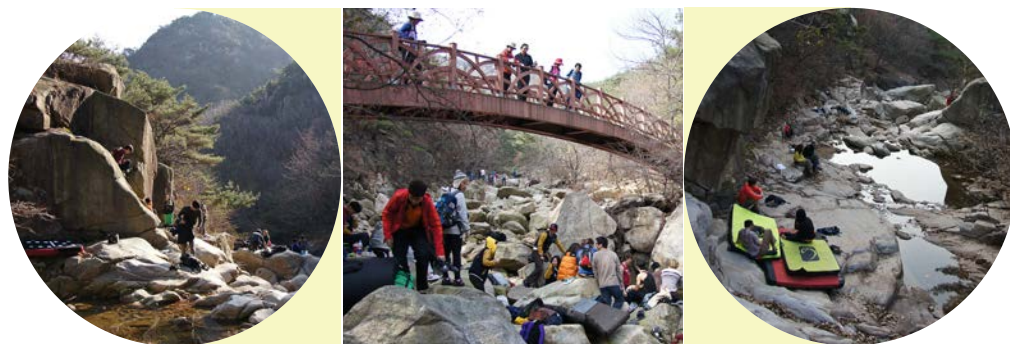
The first pink shadows of dawn on the horizon. A thin lip of orange and pink dust on the cloud line. The mountain a dull gray in the first glimpse of a new day. We can see the summit proper. Some mild bouldering is required during the last pitch. The breeze starts to pick up. The ambient light is brightening, but the sun is not over the cloud line yet. We will make it for sunrise, for daybreak on the ceiling of Kenya.

Around one last turn and we pull ourselves up onto the flat peak of Point Lenana at 4,985 meters (16,355 ft) and the first razor-thin sliver of sun rises above the cloud line that softly floats over Kenya covering the country in a thin marshmallow blanket and we are standing above the morning rituals commencing below, the sun quickly climbs and throws its light on the cold rock of Point Batian, proudly lighting up behind us, and the sky lights up like a deep blue dome over our citadel. This is the highest place I have ever stood. This is the top of Kenya.



# All the gear and no idea – A novice's day bouldering on Mt. Gwanak

by NICK WADE  
photos by DAVID BALDRIDGE and EUI JAE LEE



SEOUL – The morning was cool and crisp. The clouds were low, but light and inviting. It didn't matter that I was up much earlier than usual; today was my first bouldering experience and I was chomping at the bit.

It began like many others, with a taxi ride to the subway which was much like a ride in the passenger seat of an F1 car (I know, they only have one seat) and a sleepy journey on the subway. Couples were going for coffee, and your regular gaggle of hikers was prepping for the day ahead. I heard from one hiker that two old fellas had already cracked open a bottle of soju. The perfect start to a day in the mountains.

Now I'm not going to lie to you, I was nervous. I have only been climbing for a few months. I'd also never tried bouldering, which is so very different from scaling walls with supportive ropes. I knew the climbing scene here in Seoul and Korea in general was legit, and I was going to struggle to not look the fool.

The contact I'd had with members of the facebook group Korea Climbing CalendAr and KOTR was encouraging, though. My girlfriend (also a novice on the rocks) and I

met some of the group members at Gwacheon Station at 9 and we headed up the mountain.

After a 15-minute trundle up the trail we were at the first of three bouldering areas. Our group turned a few heads. We were carrying 50 or so bouldering pads up the hill like a colony of worker ants. The hikers clearly thought some sort of cult gathering was occurring. How right they were. The bouldering areas were mapped out and explained by Sungjae Lee and the ClimbMonster club.

There were 65 "problems" (climber-speak for challenging routes) here of varying degrees of difficulty.

The setting was fantastic. We were essentially spending the day exploring a dry riverbed. The clouds were starting to break and everyone started gearing up.

What followed was a collaboration of Korean and expat climbers, men and women, all trying to complete the routes. Whenever anyone completed the route they were given a round of applause by the crowd of onlookers that had gathered. The climbing itself was challenging – near impossible for me. OK, let's take a step back.

I don't have the climber's body yet. I've worked hard sculpting my beer gut over the years and although my arms are pretty long, they are not strong. I thought having ape arms would be beneficial today; turns out you need a little more finesse. But none of this was going to stop me having a go.

If I made one good decision that day, it was to not even entertain the idea of attempting the "highball" routes. These are routes that are borderline stupid, or so they appeared to me. In reality they are routes that are, like the name suggests, higher than normal. One route was so high that people were climbing alongside bolts on the wall – you know, the ones that are there for safely ascending the rock with ropes. Fair play to the guys and girls having a go. I was going to be keeping much closer to the ground. Although I wasn't able to complete many of the problems, I thoroughly enjoyed trying. There was an element of competitiveness, too. If you created a new route, or "first ascended" one, you were allowed to name it. We also had a challenge going to see who could climb a particular sloping boulder, without using hands.

Told you those ape arms were useless.

Despite everyone pushing themselves on the rocks, it was only after a few hours that it became clear what was really happening. In this foreign land, in what for many was a new area of the city, a community was forming. The climbing became an excuse, a reason to get together and share stories, tips and work together for a common goal. David, from Sacramento, summed it up: "The climbing community in any locale is only as strong as its members permit, and that means that if we all put in a little effort we can enjoy each others' company that much more, and do something good for the local climbing spirit."

Although climbing is often considered an introspective activity, days like this are different. We met new people, learned about new climbing spots, and challenged ourselves. My initial fears were unfounded. Everyone was willing to offer their advice and never once made me feel the fool I thought I was.



The event was organised by Sungjae Lee and his team. If you are interested in climbing in Korea, visit the website [www.koreaontherocks.com](http://www.koreaontherocks.com), join the facebook group "Korea Climbing CalendAr," or come to the film festival "Reel Rock Tour." The international festival, which is stopping by Seoul on December 10, will showcase new adventure films. It will be held at the SETEC International Auditorium at Hangnyeoul Station. Adidas is an official partner for the event; other sponsors include Kolon Sport, Mad Rock, Arcteryx, Evolve, Beastmaker, Sanirang.net, Coca-Cola and Didimdol.





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SQUID INK

## Back to Spain, in a bite

DO IT  
YOURSELF

by PALOMA JULIAN

Comfort food. I've always liked the concept. There's no equivalent in Spanish, but I agree with it.

With the financial crisis in Europe raging, you probably know that this is not the best moment for my country. Times are troubled. My mind is a cocktail of worry and longing. I want to be home for Christmas.

No sense allows us to travel through space and time like taste does. The recipe that I've been thinking about lately, the one that takes me back to Spain like no other, is "tortilla de patatas." This is not to be confused with the very different Mexican tortilla or the French "tortilla francesa." This is our tortilla, a dish that started out as peasants' food, as a hearty meal for the working class.

Now, this may sound counterintuitive, but I have an unwritten rule when it comes to tortilla: when I'm abroad, I avoid eating it. It's not because I can't find the ingredients to make it (you'll see that they're easy to find). It's because eating it invokes nostalgic feelings that I don't want to have. Eating it actually intensifies my longing for home. As soon as I put my feet in Madrid, though, it's tortilla time. I run into a coffee shop and ask for a tapa of tortilla, and there, not caring whether it's night or day, cold or hot, I finally feel at home.

The basic tortilla de patatas is made with eggs, potatoes, olive oil and salt. But I don't exaggerate when I say that with tortilla, almost anything goes. Common variants include ones made with zucchini, green peppers or onion. Really original ones are stuffed with cheese, cod or apples. You can eat them cold or hot. The famous Spanish chef Ferran Adria has tried to reinvent it (his is made of chips). I don't care about how many Michelin stars Adria has, I still prefer this basic recipe. Merry Christmas!

*"No sense allows us to travel through space and time like taste does. The recipe that I've been thinking about lately, the one that takes me back to Spain like no other, is 'tortilla de patatas.'"*



## RECIPE

TORTILLA DE PATATAS

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of Spanish extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound of potatoes, peeled, quartered, and sliced thinly into about
- 4 cups
- Salt
- 6 eggs

### DIRECTIONS

Heat the olive oil in a sauté pan over a medium flame. • Once the oil is hot enough, add the potato slices and fry on all sides until golden brown (it will take around 10 minutes). • Remove them from the pan and strain the potatoes from the oil. • Season with salt. • Break the eggs into a mixing bowl and whisk them. • Add the potatoes and whisk together once more. • Add a little of the oil you used to fry the potatoes to a small sauté pan, and add the potato/egg mix into the pan. • Heat over a medium flame. • Lower the heat and continue to cook for a few minutes. You'll know it's time to flip the tortilla when you see that the edges are cooked, and the center is getting there too. • Place a plate over the top of the pan and invert the pan so the tortilla winds up on the plate, raw side down. If the pan looks dry, add fresh oil. Return the tortilla to the pan, by sliding it back in, raw side down. Continue cooking a couple of minutes and serve.



Photo by Flickr user: La.basco  
Tortilla de Patatas is a Spanish-style omelet made with eggs, olive oil and potatoes.

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## URBS &amp; SPICES

Beating the cold  
with the help of kabochasDO IT  
YOURSELFby READ URBAN  
photo by ELIZABETH PAPILE

Soup is a necessity this time of year. We have been blessed by a long, mild fall, but the days are becoming colder and the air is getting crisper. Coming home to a bowl of soup can erase the stresses of a long day, but it can also be difficult to muster the energy to throw the ingredients together. I've put together a recipe that can be adapted to different tastes and degrees of preparation. Sometimes we just don't have the time to put those finishing touches, and we aren't always in the mood to impress.

Kabocha squash plays the starring role in this dish. It is a simple vegetable, available throughout Korea. Its outer layer of dark green skin gives way to bright orange flesh. Roasted, fried, or sautéed, the squash becomes creamy and rich. In this recipe we simmer it in stock until it cooks through. The squash is supported by cinnamon and star anise. Whole spices stud the broth while the kobocho cooks.

*"It is a simple vegetable, available throughout Korea. Its outer layer of dark green skin gives way to bright orange flesh. Roasted, fried, or sautéed, the squash becomes creamy and rich"*

This isn't a stuffy soup. You can serve it chunky, just remember to remove the whole spices (or live dangerously and leave them in!). If you want to go one step further, blend the soup, letting the squash thicken the stock, adding a rich, creamy element to the dish. Before you serve, stir in a tablespoon or two of plain yogurt. If you really want to church up the dish and impress a date you can take the soup a few steps further, putting it through a fine mesh sieve (or metal colander), creating a velvety smooth bisque enriched with cream. Whichever path you decide to choose, you will end up with a satisfying bowl of soup.

The best part about this recipe is that it doesn't take much time. Prepping the vegetables shouldn't take long. They only need a rough chop. A quick sauté and a 20-to-30-minute simmer is all it takes. Served with some crusty bread and a hearty salad, this soup can transform into a main entrée.

I prefer this soup with Kobocho, but using just carrot will also work. You could use sweet potato, or any other starchy vegetable to thicken the soup as well. Swap out the spices for curry powder or cumin and you have a whole new soup. The recipe is forgiving, and can take on many other flavors with ease. Try it first, then start experimenting on your own.

RECIPE  
KABOCHA BISQUE

## INGREDIENTS - Serves 2

- 3 1/2 cups of kobocho squash
- 1 large onion chopped
- Half of a large Korean carrot, roughly chopped
- 2 ribs of celery, roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon minced ginger
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1/2 a cinnamon stick
- 1 star anise
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 cup of white wine
- 3 1/2-4 cups of chicken stock or vegetable stock
- 2-3 tablespoons of cream
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons of butter

In a pot, melt the butter over a low flame and add the celery, onion, and carrot. Sauté until the onion is translucent. Add the ginger and garlic, and sauté for another minute or two. Put the kabocha in the pot and deglaze with the white wine. Cook for one to two minutes, until the alcohol burns off. Add the stock, bay leaf, cinnamon stick and star anise. Bring to a simmer and let it cook for about 20 minutes, or until the squash is cooked through. After 20 minutes, remove the spices, and puree the soup in small batches, adding extra stock if it becomes too thick. Take the pureed soup and pass it through a fine mesh sieve (I just use my metal colander). Use a large spoon to push through any puree if it gets blocked up. Return the soup to the heat and when it comes to a simmer add the cream and season with salt and pepper. Serve in warm bowls.

Kabocha bisque  
Kabocha squash plays the starring role in this dish. It is a simple vegetable, available throughout Korea.



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REVIEWS



## Elegant japanese for a cold winter's day

*"The broth had a rich, full flavor highlighted by accents of grilled seafood and meat that added a smoky dimension to the broth."*

by LAINE RITTER  
photos by RYAN NOEL

With the onset of winter, I begin to crave the comfort food I enjoyed while living in Japan – things like yakitori, and especially, Nagasaki Champon. Luckily, I discovered (OK, I got a tip) a yakitori restaurant that serves some killer Nagasaki Champon and succulently delicious salted fish that warms the heart and stomach at a decent price.

Yuda has the vibe of a 1950's Tokyo Noodle Shop – wrapped in bamboo paneling, natural earthen tones dominate the décor except where touches of red highlight here and there. The tables are solid wood and the big lantern at the front of the shop gives Yuda a retro-traditional Japanese ambience.

The menu is in Korean and Japanese. If you read neither, no problem. Ask for Hong, originally from Vietnam, who speaks excellent English (note: She is off on Mondays). She will guide you through the menu. They have an extensive selection of grilled dishes and a few sashimi dishes.

ChamponYakitori  
A bowl of hot champon is comfort food at its finest on a cold winter's day.



*"The grilled salted fish was perfection on the plate. Succulent cheek of the fish proved delectable and paired well with the salt, lemon and ground wasabi."*

I ordered the Nagasaki Champon and salted grilled fish while my companion ordered the mixed yakitori. The mixed yakitori came first served on a bed of cabbage. The mix will vary with the seasons. Ours included tasty, juicy tomato and mushroom yakitori wrapped in bacon and grilled eggplant glazed with teriyaki sauce that was sweet and appetizing. It also included sliced scallops, grilled simply with sesame oil and served with a sprinkle of green onion tops and black pepper. The scallops were buttery, tender and melted in our mouths. Last, the chicken yakitori topped with mayo and pollack roe was a bit on the salty side and slightly overcooked, leaving it a touch dry.

The grilled salted fish was perfection on the plate. The succulent cheek of the fish proved delectable and scrumptious and paired well with the salt, lemon and coarse-ground wasabi.

Entering with high expectations, the Nagasaki Champon did not disappoint. The broth had a rich, full flavor highlighted by accents of grilled seafood and meat that added a smoky dimension to the broth. The noodles were firm, not remarkable on their own, but had no flaws and carried the flavors of the broth well. I highly recommend that you suck the broth out of the crab. It is a messy experience but worth it.



MixedYakitori  
The yakitori comes with bacon-wrapped tomatoes and grilled eggplant.

### LOCATION

YUDA IS LOCATED IN ITAEWON.  
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## WHAT'S BREWIN'



# Scrooge Sports pub & grill

by LAINE RITTER / photos by RYAN NOEL

If a high-class, wood-paneled locker room had a pub attached to it, it would be Scrooge. Football (soccer if you're a Yank) and rugby pictures adorn the walls. A trophy case stands full and gleaming. A pool table in the middle of the room is surrounded with plenty of TV screens showing the sports of the day and a big projector screen lowers for the main event. Scrooge feels homey, clean and sporty all at once.

I first heard of Scrooge while eating at my favorite restaurant nearby in Itaewon. It was during the Rugby World Cup and I had a veranda seat where the late summer breeze carried the jolly commotion of a crowd and their bouts of cheering to me. I was intrigued and asked the server where the noise was coming from. His answer was Scrooge Pub, where expats gather to cheer for their teams.

So I went to check it out. But as always, I have my priorities: beer first. The selection on tap was pretty good. In addition to the normal Korean varieties were the standard imports, like Hoegaarden and the reliable Irish dark lagers Kilkeny and Guinness. But the most noteworthy find of the evening was the surprisingly full-bodied San Miguel on Tap.

While San Miguel may resemble a Korean draft in color, it will not in taste. San Miguel is smooth, with not a hint of that after-taste so common to Korean beer. A good value too, the half-liter glass was 5,000 won. As a yardstick, we also tried the Kilkeny on tap.

It is what you would expect from a dark Irish Lager with its smooth, full dark tones. A fan of Irish lager like this, my companion and I would normally order this or something similar. Next time we're at Scrooge, however, we will be getting the San Miguel. It's that good. The Filipino draft was light and clean but still full of body and flavor with just enough sweetness. This drink would pair well with most pub fare.

Speaking of fare, the Scrooge food selection is decent. My companion and I tried the club sandwich and the fried calamari. The sandwich was a toasted double-decker filled with grilled chicken breast, bacon, crisp lettuce, tomato and pickles. The grilled chicken was an improvement from the cold-cuts you would normally find in a club sandwich but the taste of the sandwich was set askew by a dill pickle whose flavor was a little off. Next time I'll ask for it to be left on the side.

The Calamari appeared to be home cut with a nice homemade batter. The batter would also have been great for fish and chips. Served with tartar sauce and sweet chili sauce, the Calamari was meaty and tasty although it could have been more tender. The San Miguel went well with both.

All in all, Scrooge is a great place to: A) Get a San Miguel on tap; B) Watch a bit of footy with your mates; C) A and B. Take your pick.

*"A fan of Irish lager like this, my companion and I would normally order this or something similar. Next time we're at Scrooge, however, we will be getting the San Miguel. It's that good."*

## BEER NEWS UPDATES

The on again-off again free trade agreement between the U.S. and Korea is on again. Korea's Grand National Party forced through the FTA amid tear gas and physical scuffles. That's right, a lefty Korean politician actually tear gassed his own parliament! So it looks like your access to imports from the U.S. – and more specifically the cost of brewing beer in Korea – will improve after all.

Who knew the words tear gas, free trade agreement and beer would ever look so sweet together?



Inside

The inside of the bar is traditional, sporty and upbeat.

Calamari

The calamari here tastes home-cut and home-battered.



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- Additional Information : [Busanilbo](http://Busanilbo) 82-(0)51-461-4437/8  
Busan Tourist Info 82-51-1330  
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## Polar Bear Sw

08:00 ~ 09:30 Confirm identification of participants  
09:35 ~ 11:00 Event Program  
11:00 ~ 11:10 Opening Ceremony  
11:15 ~ 11:20 Warming Up  
11:20 ~ 12:00 Polar Bear Swim  
12:00 ~ 13:00 Fin Swimming Tournament

※Schedules are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

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EXPAT ART

# This Christmas naughty is the new nice

by DANIEL WHITE

*"We're taking the magic out of Christmas,  
for the greater comic good." --*

*Producer, Liam Mitchinson*

For expats not joining the throngs of sun-seeking, bucket-drinking, soon-to-be-tanned bodies on a beach this Christmas, there is plenty to do to maintain a festive spirit right here in Seoul.

Probationary Theatre plans to help those staying put for Christmas by staging the hilarious one-man comedy "The Santaland Diaries" by David Sedaris this Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

The 70-minute comedy tells the true story of Sedaris' stint working as an Elf at Macy's department store. Sedaris leaves no stone unturned in his cynical, hilarious look at the inner workings of Santaland and the producers promise that you will never look at Christmas in quite the same way again.

"We're taking the magic out of Christmas, for the greater comic good," Producer, Liam Mitchinson explains.

Like all Probationary Theatre productions to date, it bears the trademark of taking a subject and stripping it of clichés and sentimentality. Indeed, cliché and sentimentality are two things Probationary Theatre's artistic director, and director of "Santaland Diaries," can't stand. "I get excited by scripts that approach well worn themes in new and exciting ways," Munro explains.

Her theatrical work in Seoul is testament to this, having produced the brutal and modern romance "Some Girls" by Neil LaBute and more recently, "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" by Frank McGuinness.

Munro promises no politics or romance this Christmas, just hilarity with a heavy dose of cynicism. "I don't know anyone who hasn't read this script and laughed out loud. It will bring out the scrooge in you, and you'll enjoy every minute of it!"

The stage at White Box Theatre will be transformed into a winter wonderland with the help of professional set designer and painter Caroline Swift. Munro admits that Swift has her work cut out for her. "I want people to walk into the theatre and feel as if they have been transported into Santaland. The magical fantasy of the set needs to juxtapose with the wise cracking cynicism of the script."

*"I want people to walk into  
the theatre and feel as if  
they have been transport-  
ed into Santaland." --*

*Director, Desiree Munro*

Santalan  
DIARIES

TICKETS  
KRW 15.000

PHONE #  
02-4376-76454

TICKETS CAN BE BOOKED ON THEIR WEBSITE  
[www.probationarytheatre.com](http://www.probationarytheatre.com)



# Erotic Fantasies

## of an Artistic Interpretation

by DANIEL JOSEPH VORDERSTRASSE

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*"For this exhibition, I am taking control of the situation, working close and intimately with the human body, exploring different sides of human sexuality, transmitting a message far from conventional." --*

*José Antonio Nigro*

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### PLUS 20 can't miss exhibits in Dec.

The information was compiled by Daniel Vorderstrasse in November and is therefor subject to change.



by MIKE STEWART - "SOMETHING RED"



## EXPAT ART

The mention of eroticism in a public forum invokes taboo reactions and pornographic connotations from the majority of scrutinizers. This is exactly what a group of artists seeks to transcend with the exhibit *Erotic Fantasies* at the newly opened Café Blind Spot. "The best erotic art is subtle, playful and suggestive, rather than obvious and explicit," said Richard J. Beaumont, IAC Director. "It leaves plenty of room for the viewer to complete the fantasy using their own imagination. Erotic art is never deliberately obscene, crude or offensive."

Eleven expat artists will christen the gallery's debut into Seoul's buzzing art scene, exploring eroticism in a tender, appropriate and sophisticated undertone. The International Artists Community (<http://koreaiac.com>), in association with Blind Spot café present what promises to be an innovative artistic expression.

Café Blind Spot's owner, Jung Yungnam, majored in photography at university and is a professional artist, so opening the café to creative talent was never a particularly complicated decision. "Blind Spot itself contains a meaning of photography and is the name of my favorite photography magazine," said Jung. "Through this café, I am able to meet a wide range of people like artists and other professions."

While some cafés seek rising sales and financial ambitions as a driving motivation, Blind Spot says it aspires to produce a relaxing atmosphere for customers to converse about anything in relation to paintings, artwork, fine arts or everyday topics.

The inaugural exhibition's intentions are "to let artists be known to the world, but mainly any artists who are not known or famous in public could be introduced through our café. There are many who are amateurs, but close enough to becoming professionals, so their works are to be exhibited at our café," said Jung.

Participating artists said they're excited to produce artwork that is conceptually and socially challenging. Sex sells, soexploiting the exact suspicions and suppressed emotions intimidating society, the exhibition's timing is a "relevant and appropriate theme for a group that seeks to highlight important issues related to the massive social changes taking place in Korea," said Beaumont.

Beaumont is a self-described traveler who uses art as a means of interpreting and charting his journeys.

"The theme for the IAC's latest group exhibition *Erotic Fantasies* is different from other themes that the group has addressed in that it calls on participating artists to look within themselves for their inspiration and specifically to examine their own sexual fantasies and drives."

Highlighting the personal relationship with the exhibition's theme – the erotic and exotic – creates an environment he hopes will "stimulate valuable dialogue and debate around the often taboo topic of eroticism and sexual expression in today's frantically dynamic Korean society, as well as being fun for artist and audience alike." A collection of paintings depicting the human body as an attractive rendition of natural beauty whilst returning to its once-naked and innate form will be presented.

Hailing from Kentucky's rolling bluegrass hills in the United States, Elizabeth Groeschen is a photographer who sometimes flees from the confines of a lens to dabble in mixed media and video art, recently combining two realms by tap dancing in paint to create unique artforms. Showcasing photographs with undefined context – leaving the viewer to create their own scenario and caption correlating to the photo – forces one to investigate and solve a certain dilemma in her works.

A university English professor by day and painter by night, Canadian Alexandra Beneteau tries to live her life as honestly and productively as humanly possible, while remaining true to her self, ideals, and principles. She said she is a firm believer in following her aspiring ambitions. She lives by the particularly moving Oscar Wilde quote: "Every portrait that is painted with feeling is a portrait of the artist, not the sitter. The sitter is merely an accident, an occasion. It is rather the painter, who, on the coloured canvas reveals himself." Beneteau has worked frequently with acrylics since arriving in Korea, but prefers oil paints as a favored tool-of-the-trade.

Attracted by the natural eroticism and exoticism contained by the human figure, she has especially been swayed and intrigued with the pregnant form. "In its fullness and roundness, it evokes feelings of sensual pleasure and soft comfort," said Beneteau. "The pregnant female figure, to my mind, is not only one of the most exotic sights in the natural world, but one that is relatable to almost every person in the world. It transcends boundaries of time, space and place. It evokes a sense of lust in some and longing in others. It is primordial and also alien and to this question of familiar strangeness is what I would like to speak in this exhibition." With captivating creativity, Venezuelan photographer José Antonio Nigro possesses a strong interest for colors, forms, shapes and textures. As a documentary photographer, his works "normally happen by being at the right place at the right time," he said.

"For this exhibition, I am taking control of the situation, working close and intimately with the human body, exploring different sides of human sexuality, transmitting a message far from conventional," Nigro added. With a series of photographs depicting sexual fetishes, the shots are certain to invoke discussions and exchanges of eroticism, exoticism and social acceptance – key aims proposed by this challenging presentation.

American Mike Stewart, a residing artist and transformed Seoullite for nine years, has crossed paths with endeavors to open his own art academy in the near future servicing the creative minds so prevalent in Korea's cultural society.

A printmaker by trade, Stewart has wandered outside his natural comfort zone for this exhibit, completing works via mixed media drawings based upon two live model drawing. "They are from 'Fetish Sketch Nights' that have the model posing in provocative costumes, further challenging us as artists to defend ourselves against criticism about using the nude as subject matter." The drawings create depth in combination with shading to showcase the centerpiece to the viewer in the forefront, while using a simple background to create the depth and focal point.

*Erotic Fantasies* challenges to be a unique exhibition, confronting exiled issues such as eroticism and exoticism. It runs until Dec. 17 at Café Blind Spot.

*"The theme for the IAC's latest group exhibition *Erotic Fantasies* is different from other themes that the group has addressed in that it calls on participating artists to look within themselves for their inspiration and specifically to examine their own sexual fantasies and drives."* --

Richard Beaumont

Check it out!

GROOVE has a new interactive website. Have a story?

SUBMIT YOURS

by STEPHEN NICOL- "JULIET IN HONFLEUR"







by STEPHEN NICHON "Jin in Room"



Exhibitions

20 can't miss  
EXHIBITS  
in december

1

**Artist Name:**  
Dan Perjovschi  
**Exhibition name:**  
The News after the News  
**Running Dates:**  
September 24 – December 4  
**Location:**  
Total Museum of Contemporary Art,  
Pyeongchang-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul  
**Medium:**  
Comic-book style drawings

2

**Artist Name:**  
Anton Stankowski, Tatjana Doll,  
Eberhard Havekost  
**Exhibition name:**  
Deutsche Dinge  
**Running Dates:**  
October 5 – December 4  
**Location:**  
Paju, Heyri Art Valley  
**Medium:**  
Paintings, photography

3

**Artist Name:**  
Anri Sala, Yang Ah Ham, Philippe  
Parreno, Jorge Pardo  
**Exhibition name:**  
Art of Communication  
**Running Dates:**  
October 18 – December 4  
**Location:**  
National Museum of Contemporary Art  
**Medium:**  
Mixed media, installations

4

**Artist Name:**  
Various  
**Exhibition name:**  
Edition Pop-up  
**Running Dates:**  
November 18 – December 8  
**Location:**  
Samsung-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul  
(across from COEX InterContinental)  
**Medium:**  
Various

5

**Artist Name:**  
Group Exhibition  
**Exhibition name:**  
Erotic Fantasies  
**Running Dates:**  
November 26 – December 17  
**Location:**  
Café Blind Spot, Hongdae, Seoul (Sangsu  
Station, exit 4)  
**Medium:**  
Soundscapes, painting, photography

6

**Artist Name:**  
Lim Minouk  
**Exhibition name:**  
Liquide Commune  
**Running Dates:**  
November 10 – December 16  
**Location:**  
PKM Gallery, Hwa-dong, Jongno-gu,  
Seoul, (Anguk station, exit 1, take a right  
down the street with Starbucks on the  
corner)

7

**Artist Name:**  
Abigail Collins  
**Exhibition name:**  
N/A  
**Running Dates:**  
December 8 – December 22  
**Location:**  
Sinsa-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul (Abgu-  
jeong exit 4, near CGV)  
**Medium:**  
N/A

8

**Artist Name:**  
Casper Kang  
**Exhibition name:**  
N/A  
**Running Dates:**  
December 2 – December 24  
**Location:**  
Gallery Imazoo, Gangnam, Seoul (Yeok-  
sam station, exit 3)  
**Medium:**  
Paint, acrylic and screen ink on canvas

9

**Artist Name:**  
Sven Schelwach  
**Exhibition name:**  
The Parallel Universes  
**Running Dates:**  
December 3 – 25  
**Location:**  
Gallery Dongne (between Aeogae  
& Seoul stations)  
**Medium:**  
Metalworks

10

**Artist Name:**  
Candida Höfer  
**Exhibition name:**  
N/A  
**Running Dates:**  
November 25 – December 25  
**Location:**  
Kukje Gallery, Samcheong-dong,  
Jongno-gu, Seoul (across the street from  
**Medium:**  
Photography

11

**Artist Name:**  
Various  
**Exhibition name:**  
The Gold Treasures of Ukraine  
**Running Dates:**  
December 1 – 26  
**Location:**  
Hangaram Art Museum, Seoul  
Arts Center, Seocho-gu  
**Medium:**  
Fine art, some performance

12

**Artist Name:**  
Various  
**Exhibition name:**  
Collections  
**Running Dates:**  
October 28 – December 31  
**Location:**  
Hakgojae Gallery, Samcheong-dong,  
Jongno-gu, (across from Gyeongbokgung)  
**Medium:**  
Paintings

13

**Artist Name:**  
Various ceramists  
**Exhibition name:**  
The Cup Story  
**Running Dates:**  
December 2 – 31  
**Location:**  
Gallery Cola, Gangnam-g, (Sinsa station,  
exit 8, turn left at Sil Media)  
**Medium:**  
Ceramics

14

**Artist Name:**  
Thomas Demand  
**Exhibition name:**  
N/A  
**Running Dates:**  
November 24 – January 10  
**Location:**  
PKM Trinity Gallery, Apgujeong-ro  
(Across from Galleria Department Store)  
**Medium:**  
Installation

15

**Artist Name:**  
Group Exhibition  
**Exhibition name:**  
City Within the City  
**Running Dates:**  
November 12 – January 15  
**Location:**  
Art Sonje Center, Jongno-gu, Seoul, near  
Gyeongbokgung Palace and gallery road  
**Medium:**  
Video, installation, photography

16

**Artist Name:**  
Joris Laarman  
**Exhibition name:**  
N/A  
**Running Dates:**  
December 13 – January 20  
**Location:**  
Kukje Gallery, Samcheong-dong, Jongno-  
gu, Seoul (across from Gyeongbokgung)  
**Medium:**  
Metalworks, installation

17

**Artist Name:**  
Group Exhibition  
**Exhibition name:**  
TV Commune  
**Running Dates:**  
September 29 – January 24  
**Location:**  
Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin-si,  
near Korean Folk Village  
**Medium:**  
Various

18

**Artist Name:**  
Various  
**Exhibition name:**  
The Court Painter of Joseon Dynasty  
**Running Dates:**  
October 13 – January 29  
**Location:**  
Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art,  
Hanam-dong, Seoul (Hangangjin station)  
**Medium:**  
Paintings

19

**Artist Name:**  
Various  
**Exhibition name:**  
Australian and Korean art 1976-2011  
**Running Dates:**  
November 10 – February 19  
**Location:**  
National Museum of Contemporary Art,  
Korea, Gwacheon-si (Seoul Grand Park)  
**Medium:**  
Various

20

**Artist Name:**  
Karl Lagerfeld  
**Exhibition name:**  
Work in Progress  
**Running Dates:**  
October 13 – March 18  
**Location:**  
Daelim Contemporary Art Museum,  
Jongno-gu, Seoul (Gyeongbokgung)  
**Medium:**  
Photography

by ALEXANDRA BENETEAU "Chris and Alex Sweeping"

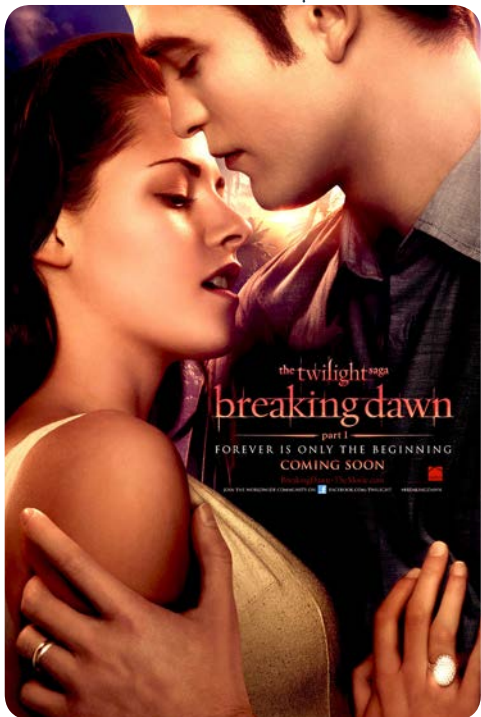


THE BIG SCREEN

## At the box office

by DEAN CRAWFORD

### The Twilight Saga Breaking Dawn - Part I



Sun Tzu famously wrote in “The Art of War” that “if you do not know your enemies nor yourself, you will be imperiled in every single battle” but “if you know your enemies and know yourself, you will not be imperiled in a hundred battles.” This is my justification for choosing to preview the latest installment of the Twilight series “Breaking Dawn,” when there are far more interesting films coming to Korea in December such as “Tin Tin” or “Sherlock Holmes 2.” The Twilight films are one of my battles. I know they are horrible films. But to defeat them, I must know them, lest I be imperiled and lose my good taste in movies. Besides, what kind of critic would I be if I didn’t acknowledge a franchise that has grossed almost \$1 billion dollars in the United States alone?

We last saw Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson, or R. Patz to the kids) propose to Bella Swan (Kirsten Stewart or... K. Stew?) and Breaking Dawn sees them marry and enjoy a Honeymoon in Rio because as we all know, Vampires love hot, sunny climates. However, not all is well in the Cullen household as betrayals abound, and during a near fatal childbirth, Edward has to succumb to Bella’s wish to make her immortal or risk losing her forever. What should be a joyous moment as they become parents to a “remarkable daughter”, only sets off a chain of events that pits them against their enemies, the Volturi, which culminates in an all out battle. Much like Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, internet rumors are rife as to where Breaking Dawn Part 1 will end and Part 2 will begin.

Now before I continue, I have a confession to make. I actually quite enjoyed the first Twilight movie. There, I said it. I liked it so much that I even went to see “New Moon.” Big mistake, as that had to be one of the worst films I have ever seen. “Eclipse” was only marginally better. So what can we expect from “Breaking Dawn?” One thing that is for certain is that a lot of fans are going to be extremely disappointed. The huge talking point is the book’s notorious birth scene, which contains macabre details of vomiting blood, Edward biting through a placenta and bloody corpses. Hardcore fans want these essential details to remain, but producer Wyck Godfrey has addressed this by saying, “it would be a crime against our audience to go R-rated” which translates to “we want to make more money.” So it appears that if you are a fan of the Twilight saga thus far you are in for a treat, meaning more of the same, but if you were looking for an adult adaptation from page to screen, you’re probably going to want to take comfort in a good book. May I recommend Sun Tzu’s The Art of War? It has gotten me through many a tough time, “Breaking Dawn” soon to be included.

### Mission: Impossible Ghost Protocol

Poor old Tom Cruise. The actor who was once the golden boy of Hollywood with that million-dollar smile has now become known as that couch-hopping scientologist nut. And we as a movie-going public showed our displeasure with his antics by boycotting his films. “Knight and Day,” which I thought wasn’t too bad, recouped but a fraction of its gargantuan budget and despite some solid performances in “Lions for Lambs” and “Valkyrie,” audiences by and large generally stayed away. Even Paramount used Cruise’s “bad behavior” as one of the reasons for releasing him from his development deal after 14 years.

Now, whatever you may think about Tom Cruise as a person, there’s no doubting his credentials as a movie star and his commitment to his craft. He continually seeks to do his own stunts and he doesn’t forget the most important reason for him being where he is today: the fans. During one red carpet moment, he delayed the premiere of his film in London’s Leicester square so he could see as many fans as possible (And no, I wasn’t one of them). Compare that with Britney Spears, who spent 20 seconds waving at the crowd before her premiere of “Crossroads.” But what does Cruise get in return? Water squirted in his face and a lampooning on “Scary Movie 4.”

Now, with a succession of relative failures by Hollywood standards under his belt, Tom Cruise has decided to return to the safer, more secure pastures of the Mission Impossible franchise. “Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol” sees Tom Cruise back as super spy Ethan Hunt who continues to work behind the scenes for the U.S. government, along with regular team member Benji Dunn (Simon Pegg) and newcomers Jane Carter (Paula Patton) and Brandt (Jeremy Renner). After a covert mission goes bad and the IMF are implicated in the bombing of the Kremlin, Ethan and his new team are forced to go rogue to clear their organization’s name.

I can understand the decision to go back to the tried and trusted formula of the Mission Impossible films. With the exception of “MI:2,” they are great rides, and judging by the trailer for Ghost Protocol, it looks as if Tom Cruise is back onto winning ways as the action and stunts seem bigger. Again, the majority of stunts Cruise did himself. With Ethan Hunt’s team having to go underground, it appears as if Hunt has got a bit of Jack Bauer about him, and being a huge 24 fan, this can only be a good thing. I think the decision to hire director Brad Bird, who has previously only directed animation, is risky. But considering J.J. Abrams is still producing, it appears that if you are a fan of the franchise, “Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol” will not let its audience down and will hopefully be a small step in a return to stardom for Tom Cruise.



THE SMALL SCREEN

## Korean DVD corner

by DANIEL JOSEPH VORDERSTRASSE

### Ninja Assassin

닌자 어쌔신

From the producers of the Matrix Trilogy and V for Vendetta comes a new-age, action-packed martial arts extravaganza showcasing Korean sex symbol Rain (Jung Ji-hoon).

Raizo (Rain) is an artistic assassin featuring a lethal repertoire of tactics exerted amid the shadows, practically unseen to the human eye. He’s not a human being, but rather a demon straight from hell destined to eliminate his objectives for their weight in gold.

A 1,000-year-old clan, the Ozunu, acquires orphans and disadvantaged youth, eventually creating mercenaries, which have contributed numerous assassinations throughout history. Trained in primeval shido amongst Japan’s picturesque mountainside, the apprentices contain no meaning in life but their devotion of mind, body, and spirit to the clan, ultimately removing any feelings or emotions possessed or encountered along their voyage.

Betrayal begets blood, so when Raizo’s love, Kiriko (Kylie Goldstein), is captured mid-escape and subsequently executed before his eyes, the burning passion for vengeance ignites. When asked to punish a runaway similar to Kiriko’s situation, he defies the clan, a mêlée ensues, and he’s left for dead by his brethren.

While probing archives, Europol forensic researcher Mika Coretti (Naomie Harris) unearths the secret society’s antics, alerting her superior Ryan Maslow (Ben Miles). After whisperings, Europol’s powers-to-be intervene, halting the investigation, and the two discover everybody who has queried the Ozunu had meet treacherous demises. Seeking to silence Mika’s inquiring, the clan intercede and Raizo foresees mutual benefits between himself and the agency eliminating the Ozunu from their exploits.

While bashed by most critics except for miniscule praise for a plethora of suspenseful battles, the film contains enjoyable features throughout multiple facets. While certainly not a first-date movie, Korea’s shirtless heartthrob Rain is an all-around statuesque Adonis, destined to occupy eyes for the duration.

Gory in nature during numerous brawls and clashes, a tolerance of blood and death need be attributed to the viewer. Outside the violent nature, an entertaining storyline ensues and leisure is contained. While certain not to win any cinematic feats, the martial arts genre has produced far worse and justice was not fully appreciated by a pleasurable screening.



### I Come With the Rain

나는 비와함께 간다

A poetic presentation of the main characters’ pain, suffering, and tribulations is not only portrayed by filmmakers, but ultimately undertaken by the audience as seconds seem like hours through a slow, suffocating death relieved only by welcomed end credits.

Retired detective Kline (Josh Hartnett) moonlights as a private detective after succumbing to a serial killer’s psychotic influence left him unfit for public service. When the world’s largest pharmaceutical tycoon provides Kline unlimited resources to recover his lost son, a worldly adventure culminating throughout Asia begins. Shitao (Takuya Kimura) escaped to Malaysia, founding an orphanage on his father’s dime, but news of his tragic demise led predecessors to discontinue efforts to return the prodigal son home. Through circumstantial evidence and hopeful theory, Kline hypothesizes Shitao’s journey to Hong Kong following the cold trail in hopes of recovering the prize.

While escaping Mindanao’s miscreants, Shitao unfortunately crosses paths with Hong Kong’s infamous local syndicate entrepreneur Su Dongpo (Lee Byung-hun, G.I. Joe). When a struggling associate reaches maximum psychosis by murdering the organization’s boss while concurrently kidnapping Dongpo’s main squeeze, the Korean’s maniacal obsession for “his lady” reaches maximum overload and all obstacles encountered during her return will deal with the most severe of consequences. Shitao turns from innocent bystander to gentlemanly courtier while trying to rescue the drug-addicted girlfriend Lili (Tran Nu Yên-Khê, the director’s wife) from Dongpo’s suffocating grasps. With all characters aligned, a chase to return Shitao for a prosperous life with his distant family or discipline him for seemingly chivalrous exploits is staged in an almost certain epic battle between good and evil.

After a painstaking plot is revealed over lethargic scenes, a change of pace is certainly hailed. Unfortunately, this “epic pursuit” meanders leisurely with little climactic events or action sequences. Not lacking excitement alone, the progressing storyline enters a spectacular failure of grand proportions as multiple subplots boggle the viewer, subordinating them to ostensibly medieval torture techniques.

Excruciating boredom and nearly stagnant moments of melodramatic reality breach the film’s fluency, ultimately detracting from possible pleasure. On a lighter note, multiple angles and cinematic techniques combined with a dramatic plotline create a potentially enjoyable film, but execution falls miserably short of impending enjoyment. The only instance more painful than experiencing the struggles of every empathizing character is enduring the film’s entire length.







# COMMUNITY

For the latest on Community happenings, go to [www.groovekorea.com](http://www.groovekorea.com)

- LIFE CHANGING RADIO .....78  
TBS eFM celebrates three-year anniversary this month
- A 21ST CENTURY PILGRIMAGE .....82  
Four men retrace the path of Wonhyo, a 7th century monk
- HELPING CHILDREN DREAM .....85  
Expatriates in Korea volunteer to help orphans



# English radio to change your life

RADIO STATION FOR EXPATS CELEBRATES 3-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

by MATTHEW LAMERS and TODD SHARP

*"As long as people think it's relevant, they enjoy it, we'll keep doing it," he said. "People ask me how long I will be in Korea — I tell them as long as I have a mic, I'll be here."*

*Steve Hatherly*

Dec. 1 is an important day for English radio in Korea. On that date in 2008, TBS eFM launched, giving Seoul's expats a source for practical information that simply hadn't existed before. Overnight, living in Seoul became a lot more comfortable for anyone with a radio.

Steve Hatherly has been with the station from the beginning.

The native Canadian's story isn't all that different from that of many long-time foreign residents here: Bored with life at home, he came here to take a teaching position, got married to a Korean woman and never bothered to go home.





# “As long as people think it’s relevant, they enjoy it, we’ll keep doing it,”



Anyone who enjoys listening to the radio can attest to the fact that there just weren’t any quality options before TBS eFM came along. “Before the station was around, there really wasn’t any real opportunity for expats to hear Western style radio programming in Korea,” he said. “There were a couple of stations that offered English programming – but one wasn’t on FM and the other was more educational.”

By chance, in 2002 he told a coworker about his interest in radio work; a colleague who proceeded to use his connections to introduce Hatherly to a producer. Suddenly he found himself on a path that would eventually lead to The Steve Hatherly Show.

It began with voiceovers, segment work and the hosting of a show on an educational network.

Then, in the fall of 2008, he was contacted for another audition at what would become TBS eFM. “I didn’t even know what I was auditioning for,” he said. “I knew it was a new station. I got a call from a new producer asking me to come in for a chat.”

After making an appearance before a group of producers and management, he was put in a situation simulating an on-air environment. “For some reason I thought I was auditioning for a segment position, so I didn’t feel any pressure because I had done that for six-some years,” he said. “If they had said, ‘You’re auditioning for your own show that’s going to have your name on it,’ I would have been a lot more nervous.”

“I guess it was good enough.”

Evidently so. The Steve Hatherly Show was among the first shows the station offered, and the new host was soon making up for the nerves that had been missing during his audition. “I remember that I was terrified,” he said. “I remember that I was probably way too honest with the listeners about how terrified I was. That being said, I get nervous before the opening of every show. Doesn’t go away. After that first song starts then I get settled in.”

In the beginning, the show that bore Hatherly’s name was a kind of variety talk show. Over the past eight months, though, it has positioned itself into a niche found few other places: an afternoon program devoted to rock’n’roll.

“Part of the reason we chose rock’n’roll is that it is a great challenge for us,” he said. “We live in a country where rock’n’roll isn’t really what you’re going to hear on mainstream radio. The reason we love going to work every day is we’re trying to win people over, you know, through rock’n’roll, teaching them the stories behind the artists – the albums and the culture as well. It’s a big challenge, but we love it.”

That it was different was also part of its appeal. “We realized that there were no rock shows, whereas at the station there were other variety talk shows,” he said.

Though Hatherly’s a big fan of the genre, when it comes to rock he admits to not exactly being Robert Christgau. To catch up, he did some off the clock research, watching documentaries and learning more about artists. It has, in time, become one of his main hobbies “learning about all these guys and then I get to go work the next day and share everything that I learned with the listeners.” The producer of Hatherly’s show, EQ Hwang, is something of an expert, having spent several years playing in a band in the indie scene, then sharing his musi-



cal knowledge in segments on both Korean and English programming.

Hwang joined TBS eFM in 2009, producing a handful of shows before teaming up with Hatherly.

“Steve has a great understanding about hosting a radio show and it’s not something you can learn over a short period of time,” Hwang said. “He finds ways to connect with interviewees and with any listeners who call in to chat.”

The last time statistics from the Kobaco (Korea Broadcasting Advertising Corp.) were revealed, Hwang said that the radio station had ratings higher than that of shows offered at many older stations. Hwang is pleased with the effort, considering the relative youth of the station.

“We will have to wait for the next data, but I feel like more people are tuning in,” he said.

“I truly enjoy every minute of my job doing what I love. Also, English radio is a fairly new industry here and I feel like we’re starting something that’s going to get bigger and bigger in the years to come.”

Since becoming a host, Hatherly has interviewed K-rock stalwarts The Rock Tigers, as well as members of Western acts Starsailor and Weezer. He has seen the station’s programming expand into other markets like Yeosu and Busan. Furthermore, he has witnessed the rapid improvement in the station’s content, not just in his program.

“When we started three years ago, it was brand new and with any project that’s brand new, there’s always a learning curve,” he said. “But I can safely say – at least in my opinion – the station has improved vastly since we first started on Dec. 1, 2008.”

“There’s a lot of information that now you can hear just by turning on your radio that you couldn’t get before – practical information they can put to use while living here. The other thing I think is great is that it’s like a little taste of home. Before three years ago you couldn’t get anything like that. So I just feel it makes people a little bit more comfortable. Some of the best compliments we’ve gotten on different shows are people (telling us) ‘Thanks for making our lives here a little more comfortable’ – which is exactly what we’re trying to do.”

Eleven and a half years after arriving in Korea, and now three years since joining the station, Hatherly has no plans to move on any time soon.

“As long as people think it’s relevant, they enjoy it, we’ll keep doing it,” he said. “People ask me how long I will be in Korea – I tell them as long as I have a mic, I’ll be here.”





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#### COMMUNITY

## Retracing the path of Wonhyo

a 21st century pilgrimage

by JOHN M. RODGERS

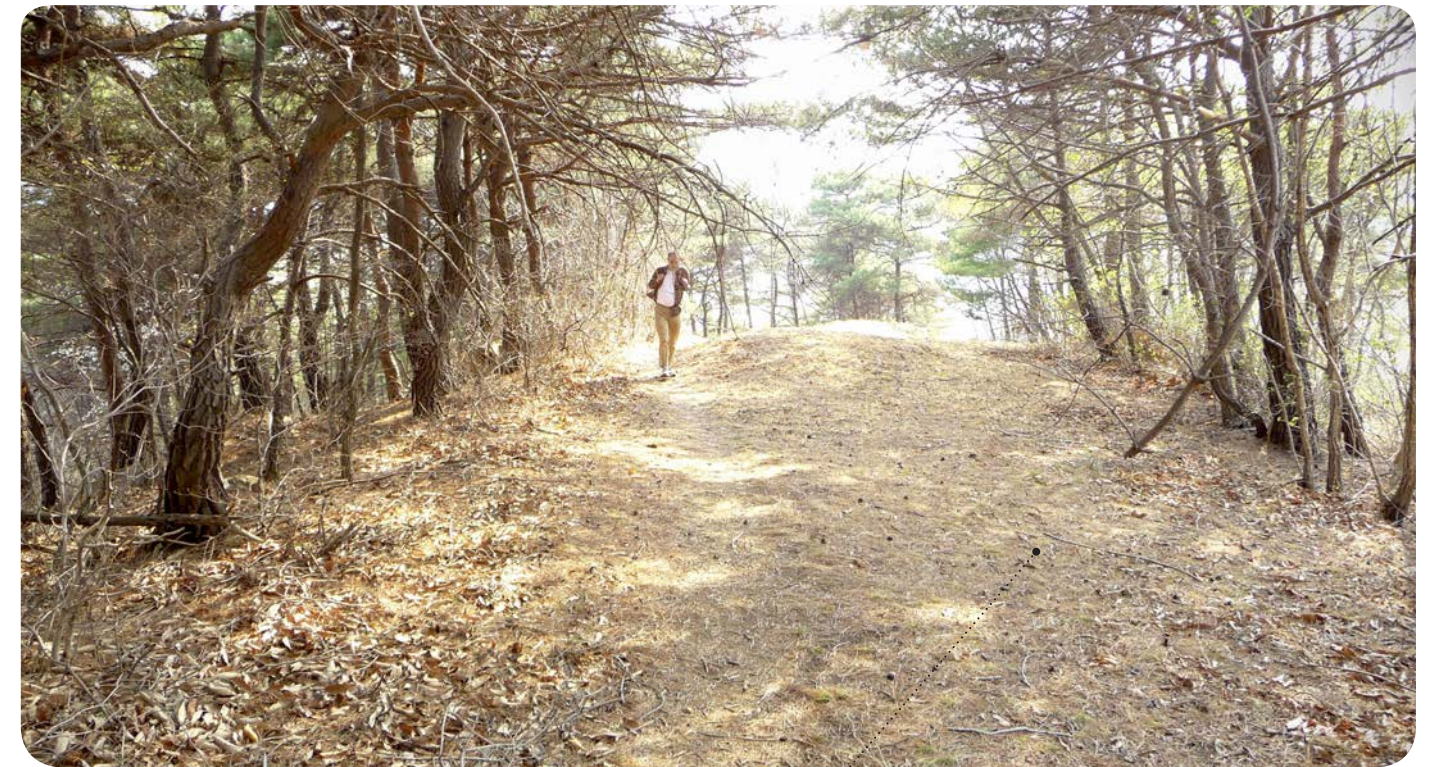
*"That's what we're hoping for in the Wonhyo Pilgrimage — that the journey across the Korean Peninsula will bring us closer to self-understanding"*

Tony Macgregor

In early December, four men ranging from 30 to 66 years old will make a pilgrimage from the south-east Korean city of Gyeongju to the city of Pyeongtaek some 400 kilometers away. Four years in the making, the journey is an attempt to retrace the path of Wonhyo, a Buddhist monk and wayfarer during the 7th century who set out on his own pilgrimage to China. Wonhyo abandoned the pilgrimage near present-day Incheon after experiencing an epiphany of sorts (he allegedly drank maggot-filled water from a broken skull in the dark of night, which caused vomiting, followed by a vision). Wonhyo's epiphany led him to develop the philosophy Ekayana, which asserts that all things in the universe are connected and that the inner journey is essential. He returned to spread the revelation.

The idea first came about in 2007 when Tony MacGregor, then a reporter for the Korea Times and a regular visitor to the International Zen Center at Hwagye Temple in Seoul, came across Wonhyo's story. MacGregor, now 66, wanted to thank Koreans and honor Wonhyo but wasn't sure how.

Interestingly, a friend of MacGregor's, David Mason, 53, a professor at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, had a long history with the mountains and trails of Korea during his 27 years in-country, editing and publishing books on the land. When MacGregor suggested a possible retracing of Wonhyo's journey, Mason went to the maps to see what the path might look like and came up with route, which includes eight Buddhist temples associated with Wonhyo where the group will stop for the night. The journey is expected to take about two weeks. Before leaving Korea for Thailand, where he's been studying for an MA in Buddhist Studies at a university in Bangkok for the past three years, MacGregor proposed the idea to three men he'd worked with at the Korea Times: Christopher McCarthy, 30, a PhD candidate in California; Simon Phillips, 35, a journalist; and David Watermeyer, 53, a professor at Dongguk University. All three expressed a desire to take on a journey related to not only discovering a new path but also exploring the ones inside themselves, much like Wonhyo. Now, four years later, with the journey they've planned for just around the corner, the pilgrims provide some insight into the trip.



### What specific event would you say inspired you to be someone who would embrace this

**David Watermeyer:** I would say my experience of walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. I found that just walking along a route with others who demand nothing from anyone, yet are walking along as well, is very inspiring.

**Simon Phillips:** A month walking in a remote part of western Nepal when I was eighteen – the sense of being away from everyday life, and the insights this allowed, both from encounters with the people, places, and nature.

**Tony Macgregor:** I have always dabbled in creative writing including short stories. In fact a couple of my short stories (River Weed on the Canal and Presence in the Pool) were printed by 3M. I was familiar with Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. It was written in the 14th Century in Middle English and was the first major literary work in English. It is a collection of stories – bawdy, humorous, knightly, saintly and irreverent – that a group of pilgrims tell each other as they journey from Southwark to Canterbury on horseback to honor the bones of a Christian saint, Thomas a Becket. The stories are still popular and well-read 600 years after the death of Chaucer. I thought it would be a wonderful thing if we could write a modern, 21st Century version of Canterbury Tales that would still be read 600 years from now.

### Can you briefly outline what contribution you intend to make before, during and after the journey?

**Tony MacGregor:** The objectives of this exploratory pilgrimage are fivefold:

- (1) To look within and seek self understanding as we blaze the trail.
- (2) To keep a record of our feelings and experiences on the trail.
- (3) To produce a book about the first Wonhyo pilgrimage, including a trail guide and Wonhyo Tales, a 21st century version of the Canturbury Tales.

Tony MacGregor scouts a trail with UNWTO STEP foundation support in 2009.

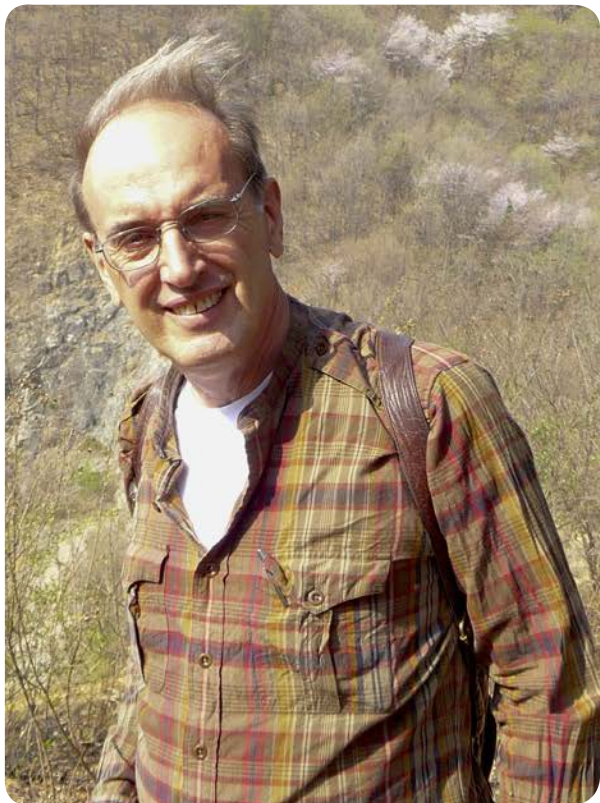
*On the pilgrimage we will be getting to know our bodies and perhaps learning something of the truth that the Buddha spoke of in the Rohitassa Sutta of the Samyutta Nikaya: "In this very one-fathom long body, along with its perceptions and thoughts, I proclaim to the world, the origin of the world, the cessation of the world, and the path leading to the cessation of the world."*

Tony Macgregor



Tony MacGregor

Four years in the making, the journey by Tony MacGregor (pictured), Christopher McCarthy, David Watermeyer and Simon Phillips is an attempt to retrace the path of Wonhyo, a 7th century Buddhist monk who set out on a pilgrimage to China but abandoned it near present-day Incheon.



## What gear will you be bringing and what's the approximate weight of your pack?

**Simon Phillips:** We'll be bringing minimal gear; as it is winter, we will be seeking refuge indoors at night. Therefore, water bottles, food enough for the day – purchased as we go – warm clothing and First Aid kit. Extras for documenting the trail: ZoomH4n audio, Garmin GPS, Lumix camera/video, mp3 player, notepad and pen and books including Wonhyo's works and the Canterbury Tales. Total weight should be below 15 kilograms each pilgrim.

## When do you plan to rise each day and when do you plan to hit the hay?

**Tony MacGregor:** I think every day will be different. This whole pilgrimage has been very spontaneous and I think we'll remain that way on the trail. If something interests us, we'll linger and explore. We won't make it into an endurance competition but keep it light and happy and uplifting.

## Will you be disconnecting for the hiking (abandoning all electronic devices that connect to the world)? Please explain briefly.

**Simon Phillips:** This is a good question. If I was walking this trail for my own benefit, I would most certainly disconnect from all devices. This allows one to be more internal and associated with the world directly around him. However, as this is a trail which we are documenting for the benefit of other people to walk, there is a necessity for us to be in contact with the world. We will be communicating with people as we go so they can update our progress, and also to our blog – [www.inthefootstepsofwonhyo.com](http://www.inthefootstepsofwonhyo.com). A GPS unit will keep us connected to satellites. We'll also

have mobile phones and Internet for access to media and friends. However, I urge others to disconnect in the future, as I feel this allows one to energize more and get away from the modern world to a greater extent.

## Do you have any concerns about the journey? If so, what are they?

**David Watermeyer:** Well I guess my main concern is that we can complete it safely. I am also hoping that it will be well received by Koreans as it was indeed Tony's idea to give something back to Korea – a kind of token of respect. Unfortunately things tend to get politicized with various groups wanting to push forward their agendas. I would say: "come on guys this is something beautiful and wholesome. It's about being human. It's about leaving all those labels behind and stepping into wider expanses."

**Simon Phillips:** That I will compromise a life of stability, but I accept who I am. I am an explorer.

**Tony Macgregor:** My biggest concern is that I won't be able to keep up with Chris and Simon. They are in their mid 30s, experienced hikers and are in pretty good shape physically. I'm 66 and of late have indulged in too many Thai curries and chocolate mint ice creams. I'm not in good shape physically. I hope my body can meet the challenge. Also, I'm not a good navigator so I'll be putting my trust in Chris and Simon. I'm also a little worried that we've put too many demands on ourselves and will lose the fun, spontaneous spirit that has characterized the pilgrimage so far.

## Could you offer a bit of Buddhist insight regarding this journey and how the idea came to you?

**Tony Macgregor:** All of the pilgrims have Buddhist or Buddhist-like beliefs. I have been studying for an MA degree in Buddhist Studies at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya in Bangkok for the past three years. All of the major religions – Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism – have pilgrimages of various types. But it was perhaps in Christian Europe that the idea developed that the pilgrimage itself – the journey itself rather than the destination – could result in a spiritual awakening or deepen self-understanding. That's what we're hoping for in the Wonhyo Pilgrimage – that the journey across the Korean Peninsula will bring us closer to self-understanding. The idea developed in 2007. I don't remember the exact date or time, but it came as a result of my study of Korean Buddhism in large part because of my attendance at the International Zen Center at Hwagyesa Temple in Seoul. The idea of writing a 21st Century version of the Canterbury Tales developed because of my interest in literature and knowledge of the Canterbury Tales. Perhaps more than other major religions, Buddhist teachings are entwined in the concepts of sickness and health. One of the four signs that the Buddha encountered that set him off on his search for enlightenment was a sick man.

During his search for enlightenment, he almost starved himself to death through devotion to ascetic practices, which brought home to him the need for a healthy body in order reach enlightenment. On the pilgrimage we will be getting to know our bodies and perhaps learning something of the truth that the Buddha spoke of in the Rohitassa Sutta of the Samyutta Nikaya: "In this very one-fathom long body, along with its perceptions and thoughts, I proclaim to the world, the origin of the world, the cessation of the world, and the path leading to the cessation of the world."

# Helping institutionalized children to dream

by LUC FORSYTH

Institutionalized children around the world face innumerable challenges, and the situation is no different in Korea. However, because of Korea's obsession with family legacy, these children are often more stigmatized than children in similar situations in many other countries. Combine that with a lack of social welfare support, low subsidies for foster care and domestic adoption and insufficient public policy, and the result is a country with an estimated 19,000 institutionalized children, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Although the common wisdom is that institutionalized children in Korea are orphans, the "vast majority are not true orphans with deceased or unknown parents," according to a paper presented by Hollee McGinnis at the G.O.A.'L International Adoption Studies Forum in October. McGinnis found that "most children in institutions are placed after the age of 2 as a result of divorce, remarriage or economic hardship, have living parents and have not been legally relinquished."

Adoption, whether domestic or international, has long been thought to be a solution for these children, but as McGinnis' research shows, many of them are unavailable for adoption because their parents have not made plans for their care. She cites statistics from the Ministry of Health and Welfare showing that international and domestic adoption address less than 15 percent of children who need care outside of their families.

Recognizing that institutionalized children in Korea are in need of support, expatriates living in the country have started to stand up to the challenge. Aimee Jachym, co-founder and the current president of Korean Kids and Orphanage Outreach Mission (KKOOM), is one such person. Jachym came to Korea on a Fulbright grant, and in 2004 began volunteering at an orphanage in Gumi, North Gyeongsang. After realizing that the children in the facility needed more than the orphanage could provide, Jachym started raising funds independently to buy supplies. "Eventually, there was a need for an official organization to house the fundraising and programmatic efforts," Jachym said, and in 2007 KKOOM was formed.

KKOOM, which means "dream" in Korean, is still quite small at present, but is trying to grow in order to better meet the children's needs. While various international religious organizations are present in Korea, "KKOOM, to our knowledge, is the only international secular charity working with at-risk, institutionalized children," Jachym said. This is significant because it means KKOOM is motivated by the sole desire to help the children.

The challenges for institutionalized children do not end when they reach adulthood, however. Children with no familial support entering a society that largely stigmatizes them face a daunting future. With this in mind, KKOOM has launched a post-high school support initiative, which will help young adults transition from the orphanages to their own independent lives. The program is ambitious and is focused on supplementing the limited government aid available. Through the support program, KKOOM is able to help certain youth attend vocational schools by providing a monthly stipend to cover living expenses.

In one exciting success story, the organization was able to raise \$4,000 for the tuition of a gifted student, who, through diligent self-study, has shown great academic aptitude. Though the national entrance exam results are not yet in, it is expected that this student will be accepted into one of Korea's top universities. The organization's future plans include a zero interest loan scheme that will allow young people in similar situations with similar academic promise to enroll in schools that would otherwise be financially out of reach.



*"As the longest-running expat magazine in the country, we are proud to be involved with projects like KKOOM and hope to develop these relationships." —*

**Sean Choi**  
Groove Korea Publisher

The need is massive and KKOOM is trying to grow to keep pace with demand. "We are presently growing from a volunteer-led, small organization into a full-fledged international office. There are some growing pains, but the support has been great," Jachym said.

Among the supporters of KKOOM are Groove magazine and Craftworks Taphouse. Every third Wednesday of the month, Craftworks hosts a Groove-sponsored trivia night. From the 19th of October quiz, raffle tickets were sold to win a contract-free BlackBerry Torch with the winner being drawn at November's Groove-sponsored quiz. Over \$500 was raised for KKOOM's post-high school support program. Sean Choi, Groove Korea publisher, said: "As the longest-running expat magazine in the country, we are proud to be involved with projects like KKOOM and hope to develop these relationships."

more  
ABOUT  
KKOOM

For more information about KKOOM, or to inquire about volunteering both in Korea and internationally, visit [www.kkoom.org](http://www.kkoom.org).

Craftworks Taphouse and Bistro is located a five-minute walk from Noksapyeong Station. For more info, visit: [www.craftworkstaphouse.com](http://www.craftworkstaphouse.com).

Luc Forsyth is a journalist and photographer, currently based out of Seoul. To see more of his work, visit: [www.lucforsyth.com](http://www.lucforsyth.com).





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MUSIC  
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LIVE



## Rubber Soul 2011: Make a little go a really long way

by CHRISTINA MURPHY

*"For us, music is a celebration of sorts. We love the affirmation that playing a great show gives us. Knowing that in our own small way, we can have a positive affect on people's lives, just by doing what we love — that's definitely a twofer. Rubber Soul always delivers that, so we keep coming back."*

Mike Yantzi

In conjunction with World AIDS Day, Little Travelers Korea will host one of the biggest annual club nights of the year, Rubber Soul, on Dec. 3. Now in its fourth year, the 10,000 won admission includes six clubs, 20 bands, and your very own Little Traveler doll, which usually retails at 5,000 won.

Little Travelers Korea, a branch of the Little Travelers Project was first brought to Korea by expat Craig Kulyk in 2007. After visiting Canada and falling in love with the Little Travelers Project, Kulyk returned to Korea with the goal of establishing Little Travelers Korea.

Little Travelers Korea is now run by Jenny Maxwell and Ian Chiasson. On average, it holds three or four events per year, but the biggest is Rubber Soul. The first, in 2008 was a small event in Sinchon, with 200 guests. The following year, "A Common Cause" was held in Itaewon and attracted over 1,000 people.

"That paved the road for us to try and do something huge for the following World AIDS Day. We teamed up with Grassroots Uganda, a scheme aimed at empowering impoverished Ugandan women, and the scope of the project widened to include a series of lectures and a street campaign," said Kulyk. "The first concert was a massive success, beyond our wildest expectations with 1200 people attending, raising over 12 million won on the coldest night of the year in Seoul. Despite it being -17, people came out in droves to support."

Michael Yantzi of band Sotto Gamba will play their third Rubber Soul this year. "For us, music is a celebration of sorts," said Yantzi. "We love the affirmation that playing a great show gives us. Knowing that in our own small way, we can have a positive affect on people's lives, just by doing what we love — that's definitely a twofer. Rubber Soul always delivers that, so we keep coming back."

So far, Little Travelers Korea has raised around 48 million won for the Hillcrest AIDS Centre; 9.4 million won of that came from last year's event and the organizers are hoping to raise even more money this year. "Our aim is to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, the importance of safe sex, raise money for the Hillcrest AIDS Centre and the Little Travelers Project, educate people on some of the misconceptions they may have about the disease and of course, to have a great time on the night," explained Jenny Maxwell.



BAND

# Sotto Gamba Gives Aural Pleasure

*Switching up from sexy samba to kinky reggae, hot-buttered soul to Afro-Cuban voodoo jazz, gutbucket funk to rolling hip-hop blues—and just about every booty-shaking groove in between—Sotto Gamba makes music for lovers.*

by BRIGITTE LABOMBE  
photos by HENDRIK BUESCHE

For the past two years, something has been gestating. Nestled deep in Mt. Namsan, it is a sprawling, sinewy beast unlike anything history has ever seen. It had lain dormant, dreaming of itself, and of its own inevitable awakening. On Dec. 10, it will be unleashed upon the world. For on that day, Sotto Gamba will release its first full-length album at DGBD in Hongdae.

As one of Seoul's most enduring and endearing original-music ensembles, Sotto Gamba has made it their mission to blend and bend musical styles and genres to suit their own singular, dance floor-friendly sound. Switching up from sexy samba to kinky reggae, hot-buttered soul to Afro-Cuban voodoo jazz, gutbucket funk to rolling hip-hop blues – and just about every booty-shaking groove in between – Sotto Gamba makes music for lovers.

Shrouded in mystery, this seminal band was first conceived as a simple lounge three-piece, covering popular songs in a bossa nova style. As it began experimenting with new and exotic sonic and rhythmic tonics and potions, Sotto Gamba evolved into the undulating, gyrating musical hydra it is today.

It was two years ago that the band began recording in their underground fortress-studio in Namsan (hence the lead). A daily regimen of epic free-form jams was initiated, interspersed with foraging for nuts and berries and hunting live game for sustenance. From time to time, they played gigs around town, including the inaugural Midan Rock Fest.

The album, a limited release, will reflect this relentless creative progression, and on Dec. 10, they will perform songs from it, some say fulfilling an ancient prophesy, foretold long ago; sotto gamba literally means, “under the leg,” which is also the apotheosis of an esoteric five-level mystic cycle the band members are said to follow.

Could this night be the final piece of some supernatural puzzle, opening a portal to another dimension? Guitarist/vocalist Mikey, bassist/vocalist Bobby, Hendrik “Hambone on the Sax-omaphone,” and drummer-hybrid prototype BRADMATT3000 are playing it close to the chest; they refused to be interviewed for this article.

If you have nothing else going on that night, you could do worse than to check it out. The show starts at 10:30 p.m., and the 10,000 won cover charge gets you the new album of previously unreleased and original songs and three of Seoul's best bands, including, of course, Sotto Gamba at midnight. DGBD is located near Castle Praha in Hongdae.

To learn more, check out their previous album on iTunes, or join their Facebook page.

And remember, once you go ‘sotto gamba’, nothing will ever feel as good.



A mainstay  
Sotto Gamba is one of Seoul's most enduring original-music ensembles.

Long time coming  
2 years ago the band began recording in their underground fortress in Namsan.



## contact INFO

The Little Travelers Project is orchestrated by ordinary people who want to do whatever they can to help ease the burden of HIV/AIDS and poverty. Little Travelers Korea still needs volunteers for Rubber Soul 2011 and for other events throughout the year. Anyone interested in helping should contact korea@littletravellers.net. For updated band information, keep checking the Facebook event, Rubber Soul 2011 and the Little Travelers Korea Facebook page – where purchasing information is also available.





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SuperColorSuper brings French  
Horn Rebellion to Busan, Seoul



# French Horn Rebellion takes listeners on a sonic odyssey to outer space.

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SUPER COOL SUPER

*The duo made up of David and Robert Perlick-Molinari, plus a French Horn, seem to have one goal musically: To take their listeners on a sonic odyssey to outer space.*

by HEMANI NARAN  
photos courtesy G'Old Korea  
& French Horn Rebellion

Electro-schiz-pop bros (no, for real – they're brothers) French Horn Rebellion love Seoul so much that they're coming back for the second time this year. A relief for someone like me, who missed them the first time round when they supported MGMT on their Asia tour back in April.

The duo made up of David and Robert Perlick-Molinari, plus a French Horn, seem to have one goal musically: To take their listeners on a sonic odyssey to outer space. Their sound is like electro happy-clappy for the non believer. With a lot of funk thrown in for good measure – so basically perfect shit to dance your face off to. If you're a fan of MGMT, Boy Crisis, or have ever listened to a Kitsune Maison compilation, these dudes are guaranteed to thrill you.

Interesting footnote: The band recorded a music video in Seoul this April for their single "What I want." Interesting to see Seoul as a backdrop for New York musicians.

Dec. 16 Busan – @Fabric; advance **15,000** won & door **20,000** won

Dec. 17 Seoul – @Rolling Hall; advance **18,000** & door **24,000** won

## Out of print Korean vinyl

While the title "world music" is pretty douch-ey, one cannot deny that it can be some good when you see past the turtle-necks and free trade coffees.

Brian Shimkovitz's Awesome Tapes from Africa is a case in point. To that effect, Super Color Super have recently teamed up with awesome-eatery/boozery-from-Korea Gopchang Jeongol, whose collection of vintage Korean music is thorough and pants-moistening – to create G'old. G'old (Good Old) is a blog and party series located at [goldkoreavinyl.com](http://goldkoreavinyl.com) and various clubs with the aim of digitizing Gopchang Jeongol's vast collection of out-of-print Korean vinyl that spans the musical spectrum from psych, classic rock and folk to disco and pop-rap.

The music is all-Korean, and coming from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's.

Check out the G'OLD Korea Vinyl blog at [goldkoreavinyl.com](http://goldkoreavinyl.com).

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# Groove Korea with SEOULVIBES



## AUDIO TSUNAMI (AUS)

(BREAKS/ELECTRO/JACKIN HOUSE/LIQUID/FUNK)  
(BREAKBEATMASSIVE/GROOVE FACTORY/CLUB FIX/NSB RADIO/  
BREAKZRBOS RECORDS/HELLTRACK RECORDINGS)  
CLUB FIX GRAND OPENING DEC. 9

In the last few years, the dance music world has witnessed an influx of fresh, new talent. A crew of young blooded, energetic DJs who are injecting clubs worldwide with their own innovative, unique style aimed directly at the dance floor.

In Korea, one such artist pioneering this new wave of club music is Audio Tsunami.

Originating from the sundrenched beaches of Queensland, Australia, a resident in arguably the hottest club on the peninsula (Club Elune, Busan) and the highly anticipated Club Fix (Busan), Audio Tsunami has quickly cemented himself amongst the country's elite Club DJs. Combining jackin funk, tribal rhythms, big beats and dirty basslines into every set ensures not a single partygoer escapes unmoved. Audio Tsunami's diverse booty-shakin' sets have echoed across Thailand, Australia, Bali and Korea alongside international acts such as Steve Aoki, Calvertron and many others.

His eclectic approach to EDM is highlighted through past and forthcoming productions on 'Paduraru records, BreakzRBoss records, and Helltrack Recordings.

In 2010, Audio Tsunami was nominated best antipodean DJ for his weekly radio shows Yello Feva Show and Rickshaw Rhythm Emporium on the world's biggest breakbeat Internet radio station, the multi-award winning NSB Radio. Fresh, funky, charismatic or downright cheeky – call it what you will, Audio Tsunami will get you movin'.

Audio Tsunami has been an integral part of the scene for many years and his presence at Club Fix will only help to improve club life on the peninsula, as well as, improve Korea's image amongst the music fraternity of the world. Their vision is one that needs to be adopted and standardized if electronic dance music expects to thrive across the peninsula.

Who has influenced you the most?

I grew up on a strict diet of Fatboy Slim and Chemical Brothers as well as a slew of Australian alternative bands. It is their influences along with artists from older breaks labels such as Fingerlickin', West and Splank! that I draw on when producing. Dj wise I am influenced by everyone I hear. My taste in music is pretty eclectic and I find there is a lot you can learn from DJs of all abilities and genres.

Who has influenced you the most?

Brian Kelly and I used to bang out funky house every weekend in Club Bubble and Funkaholic in Daegu, balanced with as many trips to Vinyl Underground (Busan) as we could manage back in the day but the first real 'gig' would probably be with the Jungle Brothers and Nakadia at Club Mint (Thailand) during a vacation, circa 2004.

What is your present style?

Electro, House, Tech, Fidget, Techno, Breaks...you name it, it will probably feature in my DJ sets somewhere! I enjoy DJing as it keeps me away from the bar so I find myself playing to different crowds in different venues all around Busan and what I play is usually dictated by what is happening around me. I can say anything I play does always have a very strong element of funk in it!

How are things going in the studio?

I recently released a remix on Canada's BreakzRBoss label which cracked the top 40 everywhere online and opened the floodgates in terms of offers for my services. I'm working on some funky breaks/big beat business for Viperfunk and Helltrack recordings under 'Audio Tsunami' as well as some club orientated house tunes with some big artists under a new guise, Ecky Thump!

Why do you base yourself in Busan?

Until recently I lived in Daegu. Due to the lack of prospects there Busan was the obvious alternative. And what an alternative it is! The beach and nightlife here definitely differs from anywhere else I have been and the atmosphere and enthusiasm of clubbers is second to none!

What changes have you seen in the EDM community?

The live music scene in Busan and Daegu has always been strong. So strong in fact that it has probably hindered the growth of electronic music as foreigners particularly have long preferred to crowd smaller bars and stages on weekends than to pay entry into 'clubs'. In Busan, things are slowly turning around thanks to the arrival of bigger venues such as Foxy, Maktum and Elune and their efforts in bringing bigger name artists.

How would you compare Seoul to Busan?

If Seoul is the father of Korea's EDM music scene then consider Busan his estranged, party loving son! Once the 'black sheep' when it came to clubbing nightlife on the peninsula, Busan has spent the best part of a decade searching unsuccessfully for its own 'sound'. The lack of direction has left little pockets of resistance all over the city and spawned quite an eclectic music scene. By not settling on any particular sound I think it has made the need for that 'sound' obsolete. Although Busan clubbers tastes tend toward a hard electro style punters can now stumble across ear candy of almost any taste in every nook and cranny around the city.

## JANUARY LINEUP

January 6th	Alex Gaudino (ITA)	January 7th	Diamonds (Sexy DJ duo) (Ukraine)
January 13th	fRew (AUS)	January 14th	Blaze Tripp (AUS)
January 20th	Nom De Strip (CAN)	January 21th	Boom Machine (FRA)
January 27th	Peking DuK (AUS)	January 28th	Dilemn (FRA)



## INFO

This is a column dedicated to electronic music in Korea. Our aim is to give Groove Korea readers interviews and updates on what is happening on the peninsula. Fell free to contact the links below for information on clubs, DJs and events!

www.samurai.fm/seoulvibes | seoulvibes@gmail.com | www.myspace.com/seoulvibes

What are the negatives/positives that exist in the scene?

I find the competitiveness between venues (particularly the larger ones) quite counterproductive and frustrating at times. Clubs are always looking to get 'one up' rather than work together and secure a healthy scene. Also a disregard for anything that doesn't fit within current domestic music fads does occur with the bigger clubs. On the other hand the scene seems to be flourishing regardless. The crowds here are nothing short of euphoric and it's their up for anything attitude.

Who are some of the DJs you have slated to come in and tear it up?

We have worked hard to secure bookings up to months in advance. It is no mean feat when we are flying in a guest DJ every Friday and Saturday of every week. Some of the 'bigger' names confirmed so far include Stefano Noferini, Jesse Rose, Belzebass, Nom De Strip, Dilemn, Plump DJs, Bart B More, Tom Piper, Yolanda Be Cool, Sonny Wharton, Lee Mortimer, Bass Kleph, The Squatters, Da Fresh, John Acquaviva, Mightyfools and Hoxton Whores and that's just our first 3 months!

What will be the music policy of Club Fix?

Open. That's the only way to describe it. We hope to bring an eclectic mix of world class artists every weekend with the mindset of 'if you build it, they will come'. We are trying to balance our schedule with established artists, superstar DJs and fresh talent from as many genres as possible.

Who are some of the DJs you have slated to come in and tear it up?

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What will distinguish Club Fix from other clubs on the peninsula?

Come opening night guests will be treated to a venue like no other in Asia. Since the Club Fix concept was first mentioned to me almost a year ago I've been involved in its creation. We refused to restrict ourselves by comparing Club Fix with domestic clubs and trends preferring instead to focus on the bigger picture, designing the best club in the World. I guess only time will tell if we will actually achieve this, but it certainly doesn't hurt to try!

How do you balance performing, producing and promotion?

Yeah, I do wear a few hats but I find they all complement each other. It is very exciting to be involved with something you feel is ground breaking and fresh which makes working a pleasure. Being involved with many aspects of the club and its promotion motivates me as a DJ and producer. There is not a lot of down time at the moment as we prepare for the opening but I still find time to irritate everyone around the office with some of my works in progress, the immediate and honest feedback actually helps!

# FIX

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

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**ESARANG DENTAL CLINIC** .....97  
This Itaewon dental clinic builds clientele on trust.

**ORACLE LASER SKIN CENTRE** .....98  
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## DENTAL - Review

# Esarang Dental builds clientele on trust



Esarang Dental Clinic  
Itaewon - [www.esarangdental.com](http://www.esarangdental.com)

by THE GROOVE STAFF

*"The biggest joy I find in my job is the ability to build-up a relationship with my patients whilst helping them with their problems and worries." --*  
*Lee Seungzoon*

Not long ago, a 52-year-old woman went to Esarang Dental. Her malformed jaw had made it impossible for her to smile, and she said she has suffered from low self-esteem her entire life. But after undergoing surgery under general anesthesia, she was able to overcome her fears.

The doctor responsible for the procedure was Lee Seungzoon, owner of Esarang Dental Clinic. He said he will see her at least for the next two years, and strongly believes she will become part of his life – not just as a patient.

Esarang Dental Clinic has only been open for five months, but it has already been a staggering success. Patients range from famous talk show announcers, singers, to expats and tourists.

Dr. Lee said there's no secret to his success. "I try to make all treatments pain and fear free," he said. "The No. 1 cause of people not going to the dentist is because they are afraid. But at my clinic we try really hard to eliminate those fears and focus on the amazing results that will be achieved – all pain free."

Service is another priority. He said his friendly and helpful staff focus on patients' well-being, making them comfortable at the clinic. Esarang is also focused on safety. They only use KDFA or FDA approved dental materials and implants.

Life has taken Dr. Lee on quite the ride. He studied architecture at Seoul National University before going on to MIT's graduate school. But he soon lost all interests in architecture. It was then that Dr. Lee made a dramatic change in his life path by transferring to Kyung Hee University to become a dentist. It might not make sense to some, but Lee explained that his education in architecture helped him develop an esthetic point of view.

He was trained at Asan Medical Center, one of the best hospitals in Korea, to be a prosthodontist. Lee also went to Harvard for clinical research, funded by Harvard Medical International and Asan Medical Center.

Now his clinic is an associate of Asan Medical Center and a partner of the Seoul City Government's foreign patient initiative. Esarang Dental Clinic is an Osstem implant clinical research center.

Lee is a prosthodontist and specializes in cosmetic dentistry. The clinic's popular services include: teeth whitening, laminate veneers, ceramic crowns, dentures and dental implants.

Worth noting is the clinic's promotion program for whitening, which is 300,000 won until the end of this year. Cleaning is 60,000 won including polishing. Tooth-colored material filling is from 50,000 won to 150,000 won depending on location and size. A highly esthetic crown, which is popular among expats and tourists, is 700,000 won. A ceramic-metal crown is 400,000 won.

"As you can see, we try to keep our prices at a reasonable rate, because I believe some of these treatments are really not just cosmetic but they improve the way a patient feels about him or herself," Dr. Lee said. And that is the most precious gift a dentist can give to one of his patients."

"As you can see, we try to keep our prices at a reasonable rate, because I believe some of these treatments are really not just cosmetic but they improve the way a patient feels about him or herself," Dr. Lee said. And that is the most precious gift a dentist can give to one of his patients."

Dr. Lee genuinely enjoys being a dentist.

"The biggest joy I find in my job is the ability to build-up a relationship with my patients whilst helping them with their problems and worries," he said. "This is usually the case as, dental treatment always takes some time.

"Most of my patients say that this is a happy and joyful dental clinic, which is unusual (for a dental clinic). They even bring their family and friends to the clinic to see me. But truthfully, people will always have a new problem with their teeth, so eventually they have to see a dentist. I just try to create an environment at the clinic that ensures they want to come back to Esarang Dental clinic. An environment where there is no 'scary dentist,' but rather a staff of helpful smiling faces." ☺



contact  
INFO

English is spoken at Esarang Dental Clinic and  
English documentation is also available.

Call: (02) 701-2199 E-mail: [mailto:esarang28@daum.net](mailto:mailto:esarang28@daum.net)

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# Beauty is a phone call away

by THE GROOVE STAFF

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To get there, walk 200m from Exit 10 of Gangnam Station on Line 2. It's on the 11th floor of the Daewon Building.

"We guarantee a precise, thorough diagnosis, examination and safety with state-of-the-art equipment and skilled doctors. Unlike many other dermatology clinics, it has a permanently stationed anesthesiologist in the event of an emergency to ensure maximum safety and convenience." --

Sung-Il In, M.D., Ph.D

Oracle Laser Skin Center is not your ordinary dermatologist. Celebrities Ngoc Trich (Vietnamese model), Ngoc Thach (another Vietnamese model), Miss Venezuela 2009, 2011 Miss Asia Pacific World and Vietnamese MC Thanh Bac have all been customers – along with too many Korean celebrities to name.

Oracle Laser Skin Center is a comprehensive dermatology and plastic surgery clinic.

Expats and foreign tourists also frequently visit Oracle Laser Skin Center – about five per day, they said. The reason? It helps that English, Japanese and Chinese are spoken.

The director of Oracle Laser Skin Center, Sung-Il In, M.D., Ph.D, was a medic of the 8th U.S. Army and graduated from College of Medicine at A-Jou National University in Korea and is fluent in English.

Dr. In said access to information is a problem reported by its foreign patients. "There isn't enough information out there to explain and let the patients to know that there is a clinic close to them, so they do not need to travel far away from home for the clinic service."

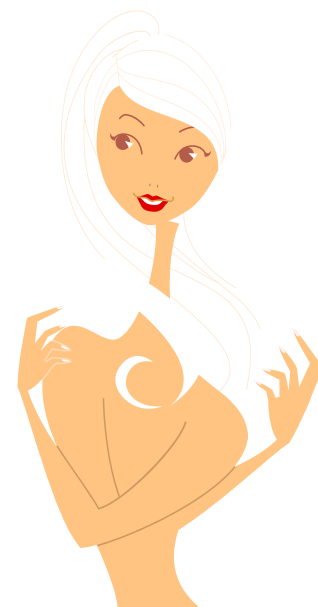
In said the clinic is easily accessible to expats and tourists. It is located on the 11th floor of the Daewon Building – a 5 minute walk from Exit10 of Gangnam Station (Line 2). Free consultations are available to foreign patients in English, Japanese and Chinese. There is also a 50 percent discount and free Dr. fish footbath coupon for Namugeuneul cafe on the 2nd floor.

The Gangnam branch of the Oracle Laser Skin Center was established in 2008. There are 60 branches domestically and abroad. Four have been opened in China, four in Taiwan, and one in Central Asia, a location in Russia is in the works as it set outs to pioneer the global market. Seven doctors (four specialists, three general) and 31 staff strive to provide the best medical services available.

Dr. In is a licensed dermatologist, member of the Korean Dermatology Research Society; was awarded a visiting scholarship for the Hair Implant Center, Kyungpook National University and for the ASDS; was listed in Marquis Who's Who in the World in 2009; and in 2010 was listed in Biographical Categorizations of IBC Cambridge, U.K. He specializes in dermatologic surgery – surgical scars, fat transplant, lipo suction, hair transplants, tumor removal, Botox and Dermal fillers, and laser surgery.

Also working with him are specialists for different areas like over the body – anything from skin problems and facial whitening, wrinkles, breasts, body shape, to liposuction. There has not been a single medical failure since its 2007 opening. Patient safety, after all, is emphasized above all else.

"We guarantee a precise, thorough diagnosis, examination and safety with state-of-the-art equipment and skilled doctors," said Dr. In. "Unlike many other dermatology clinics, it has a permanently stationed anesthesiologist in the event of an emergency to ensure maximum safety and convenience."



## Procedures

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\* Including 5 revisions

### 5) Dual module Liposuction

Price:  
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KRW 800.000  
per area

## Busan Polar Bear Swim

by THE GROOVE STAFF

Sunday  
Jan. 8th  
8a.m. - 2p.m.



Though you may have the cojones to take part in the annual Busan Polar Bear Swim, there's a distinct possibility you may not have any after jumping in the frigid waters off Haeundae Beach. That being said, the annual event is a definite must-try while you are here on the peninsula.

This marks the 25th annual organized chilly dip and it is being hosted by the Busan Ilbo and the Haeundae Culture Tourism Agency. Sponsors meanwhile are Busan Metropolitan City and the Haeundae-gu office.

The registration fee is 20,000 won and it includes a Polar Bear T-shirt, a full sized towel and a pass to a spa sauna near the beach. Registration is from Dec. 13 to Dec. 28 and the swim is scheduled to take place on Sunday Jan. 8 from 8 a.m to 2 p.m. For further information call the Busan Ilbo at 051-461-4437~8 and for registration visit <http://bear.busan.com>. ☎



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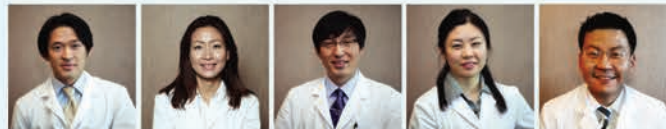
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## BANKING QUESTIONS: MICHELLE ANSWERS

# What is a Time Deposit?

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Dear Michelle,  
What is a time deposit?  
~Deposit in Time

Dear Deposit in Time,

A time deposit (also called a term deposit) is a savings product that is provided by and available at your local bank.

Time deposits are considered risk-free investments because you will earn a fixed interest rate. You can calculate exactly how much you will earn at the end of the deposit term – there is no uncertainty. Most importantly, they are insured by the Korea Deposit Insurance Corporation (KDIC) under the Depositor Protection Act for up to and including 50 million won, including principal and interest, per person, per bank.

The basic concept of the time deposit is that you deposit a lump sum (your principal) into an interest-earning account for a fixed amount of time (usually anywhere between 1 month and 5 years). The day that you open the time deposit, you lock into the interest rate posted by the bank on that day for the entire period of your deposit. The theory being that the longer the term of the deposit, the higher the interest rate you can earn. At maturity, you receive your principal plus the accumulated interest that you were promised on the day that you opened the account.

A 15.4 percent capital gains tax on your profit will be deducted automatically.

You can open either a won time deposit or a time deposit in the foreign currency of your choice. Each currency has a different interest rate that is posted daily by each bank.

It is important to note that the interest rate you receive on a typical time deposit will most likely be a simple interest rate that is applied per annum. A common misconception is that your interest is calculated and added to your principal each month, and then the next month, the interest is calculated again based on your growing principal. But, this is not the way a typical time deposit works. However, most banks do have this type of compound interest time deposit available if you ask (but you will likely earn a lower interest rate to offset those compounded earnings).

If for some reason you need to cancel the time deposit before the maturity date, it is important to know the bank's cancellation policy. Most of the time deposits in Korea do not charge any cancellation fees. However, you will only receive a portion of the interest rate that you were promised on the day that you opened the account.

Remember that banks will usually offer many types of time deposits and not all of them will have the exact specifications described here. It is always a good idea to review the terms and conditions of your specific time deposit with your bank teller.

*Michelle Farnsworth*

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Foreign Client Relationship  
Manager

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Foreign Customer Department  
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## REPATRIATE ME

# Why my family and I must leave Korea

by SEAN SMITH

*This monthly column is going to chronicle the many preparations involved in moving my family back to Canada. The endeavour involves a massive number of things, including getting an immigrant visa for my wife (she's Korean), getting my kid's English skills up to par, and ensuring we have translations of all relevant documents (birth certificates, immunizations etc.). After two years of planning to move to Ottawa, we eventually decided to move to Toronto, instead. I'll also be writing about what I like about living overseas and what I don't like, what I'll miss and what I won't. What I expect to like once I move back to Canada and what I expect to dislike. I'll also be talking about the issues that my wife and children have with the move, finding schools and reverse culture shock. What will follow over the course of the next year is essentially a "best of" from the blog I started at the beginning of my plan to move back to Canada after living in Korea since 1997. You can follow the entire journey at <http://repatriate.me> and find the highlights below and in the columns to come. — Ed.*

*"I've got a stable job with more vacation and free time than you can shake a stick at. I work four-day weeks and have 20 weeks of vacation a year. Why would anyone willingly leave such a cushy position?"*

I've been living in South Korea since May 1997 and am for the most part quite happy with my life here. I've got a stable job with more vacation and free time than you can shake a stick at. I work four day weeks and have 20 weeks of vacation a year. It's this large amount of free time that has allowed me to start my own business <http://caffeinecreations.ca>.

Why would anyone willingly leave such a cushy position? It's not perfect. Like any job, there are downsides, which I'm not going to go into here. But more importantly, I'm moving back home because of my children. This is a common reason among the long-term expats that I have known in my time in Korea.

Living in Korea, with Korean daycare/schooling and all their friends, children really have little need for English. Especially if one or both parents speak Korean as is usually

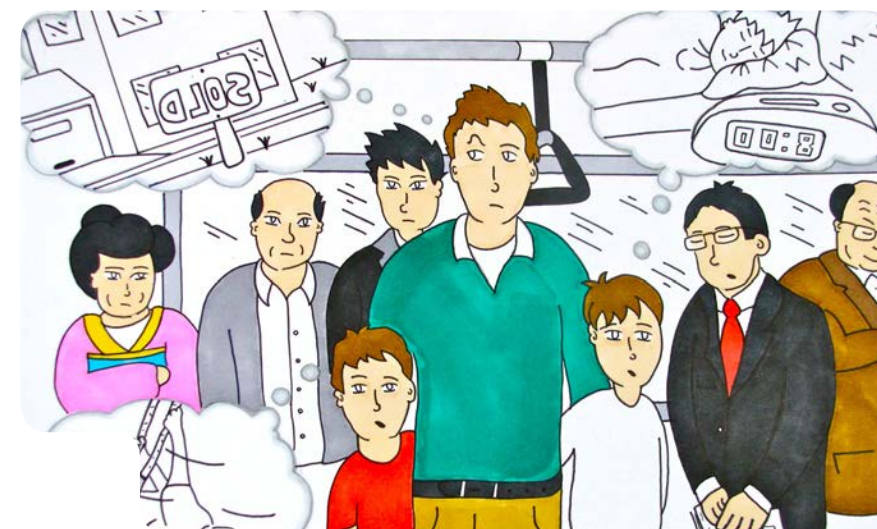
the case with mixed families. Yes children need to speak to their parents and will learn English at home, but once they are out in the wild where everyone speaks Korean, their Korean overtakes English – at least it does in my experience.

What happens then is that they will start speaking to their English native parent in Korean. Since this parent is typically a long term expat they will understand and respond. Thus the child realizes that English is less important and not very necessary and consequently focuses on Korean which everyone around them uses including, friends, teachers, and other children.

When this started, I made the decision to stop using Korean at home. This barely affected my daughter's English ability and even that improvement was only for a short time. At this point, my 7-year-old, daughter speaks to me in Korean and I respond in English. But

her Korean is way beyond mine as my ability has atrophied with lack of use and we now have communication problems which are affecting our relationship. The same process has now started with my 3-year-old son.

I've also looked into international schools, but they are prohibitively expensive. The closest international school to where I live is also the best one in Seoul. To send my daughter one year ago when I checked would cost 15 million won plus \$6,000. That fee does not include the lunch fees or bus fees, which I believe came close to another 1.8 million won, plus any other fees. This is just for one child. To send both of my kids I would have to pay double. The cost is completely out of reach. Obviously these schools think that money grows on trees. On top of that these international schools in Korea are hardly international. They are filled with rich Korean kids – not sure exactly how much English will be used by my kids in that environment.



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interactive web site.  
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# REPATRIATE ME

*I've also looked into international schools, but they are prohibitively expensive. Other concerns include the Korean education system, which is so deeply flawed that Korean parents, if they can afford to do so, send their kids abroad to study and if they can't they spend tons of money on after-school study programs.*

This is hardly an environment that I want my children to go to school in.

Other reasons include that there are essentially no houses in Korea, unless you live in the countryside (not even a small town, but real country). This means no yard for the kids to play in, no barbecues, snow forts or anything like what I got to do growing up. Plus apartment living, even if you own it, means having to be always aware of your neighbors and how much noise you and your kids are making.

Furthermore, there are very few parks here in Korea and at most of them you are only permitted to look at the grass. It is not possible to walk on the grass – there will be little fences around the grassy areas with signs telling you not walk on the grass. It's almost impossible to find a place for a group to get together for a casual game of Frisbee, baseball, or soccer – no parks have enough space for this for one group let alone multiple groups.

One final reason for leaving is the biased reporting in the newspaper against ESL/EFL teachers. The newspapers here for the past several years have taken every opportunity (and I swear have created some) to vilify all foreign English teachers for the actions of a minority. It's been going on for a long time and there appears to be no end in sight and I'm just not interested in being part of a target group for which I do not fit the profile other than for my job.

I've also been abroad for a long time and feel it's time to return and establish myself back in Canada. In any case I'm looking forward to the move and the adventure of repatriating, re-adjusting, and experiencing reverse culture shock.

Other concerns include the Korean education system, which is so deeply flawed that Korean parents, if they can afford to do so, send their kids abroad to study and if they can't they spend tons of money on after-school study programs.

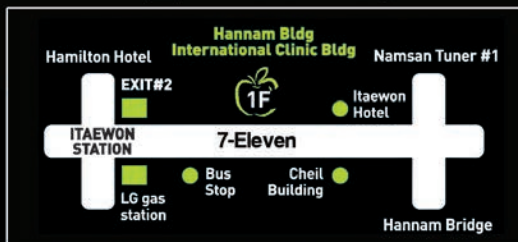
This results in kids going to school from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., 9 p.m. or even 10 p.m., six days a week. It only gets worse for high school students.

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# HOROSCOPE



Aries

Today you might feel especially passionate and desirous of some time alone with your significant other. However, your partner may be detained by other responsibilities or might not be in the mood. This could be frustrating, but don't get angry. You aren't being rejected, although it might seem that way. Make a date for tomorrow. Better late than never!



Libra

A female friend may seem to be upset with you and might not admit it. If you ask what's wrong, she'll probably say, "Nothing." Use your intuition to deduce what's bothering her and then try to make it up to her in some way. You might want to reevaluate your friendship. She may be too uncommunicative. The term "acquaintance" might suit her better than "friend."



Taurus

Your significant other may be expected at your house tonight but not show up, and may not even communicate with you. This might cause you to be understandably worried. Don't make yourself crazy. All signs are that your partner is OK. Traffic is the likeliest culprit keeping the two of you apart. Your friend may show up a lot later than expected.



Scorpio

Emotions might run high with today's astral energies. Your friends may be snapping at each other and even getting into quarrels. Stay out of it! It's best to concentrate on getting the problem taken care of and take away the reason for the tension rather than try to control it. Hang in there.



Gemini

Someone you need to contact for information may be temporarily unavailable. You might have to try to find whatever you need somewhere else. This could be difficult. You could go in circles as you're referred to someone who refers you back to the person you can't reach. You might have to put off this problem and work on something else.



Sagittarius

Some people with whom you spend a lot of time could get into a debate over spiritual or metaphysical concepts. This could make you and everyone else very uncomfortable. This isn't the time to try to mediate. Both parties involved are too attached to their points of view. It's best just to nip it in the bud and ask them not to discuss it now. Change the subject!



Cancer

You're probably doing better financially than you have for a long time, but you still might not have reached some of the monetary goals you'd set. This could be on your mind today. If you aren't careful, you could work yourself into a frenzy. It might be more productive to calmly find a way to progress more quickly. You can do it.



Capricorn

Disagreements and hot tempers could hinder the completion of an important project. There may be a detail to the plan that some people just can't agree on. It's best to attempt to rework it rather than try to bring everyone around to the current point of view. Everyone is too tense to listen to reason. Instead, hear what they have to say and act accordingly. Remain objective!



Leo

Your parents or another couple close to you may be quarreling, and you might be expected to take sides. Don't do it! It's better to stand aside and let them work it out for themselves while reminding them that you care for them both. The best you can do under these circumstances is try to help mediate a compromise, but finding a win/win situation could be hard.



Aquarius

You might have gotten home later last night than is good for you, and you may feel a little tired and dragged out. Take your vitamins and don't use coffee as a stimulant. Take a brisk walk to clear your head and get the endorphins going. It will lift your spirits. This will enable you to function as sharply as you normally do.



Virgo

Someone you know well could be saying one thing to you while your intuition tells you another. Your friend is probably troubled by something embarrassing. Don't press for information. It will come out in good time. If you want to help, distract your friend by taking him or her out to dinner or a movie. This should take your minds off the trouble for a while.



Pisces

Your emotions may cloud your intuition today. You might not pick up on the thoughts and feelings of others the way you normally do, and you could feel at a disadvantage. This is only a temporary condition. Today you'll just have to rely on logic. This could be helpful in the end. Intuition is at its most useful when it's combined with intellect.

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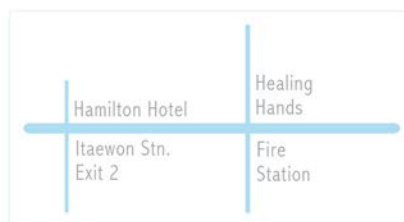
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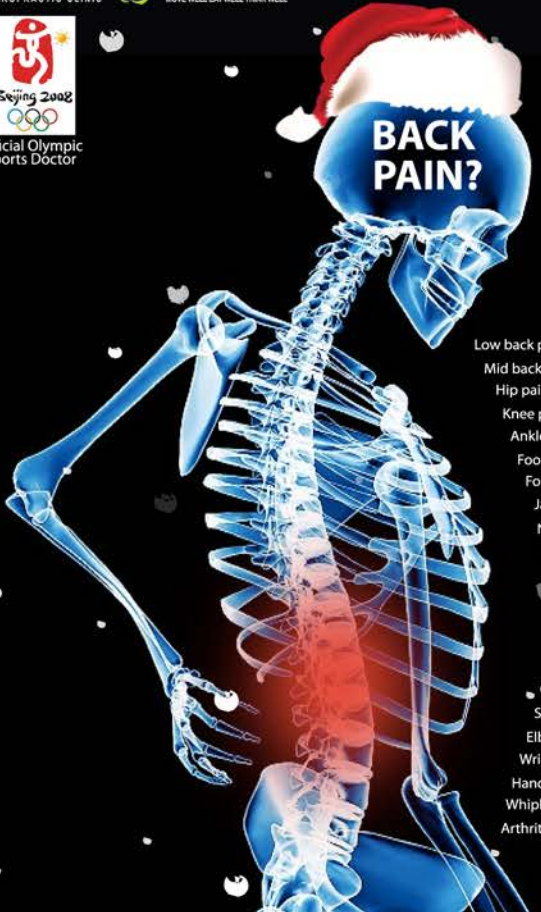
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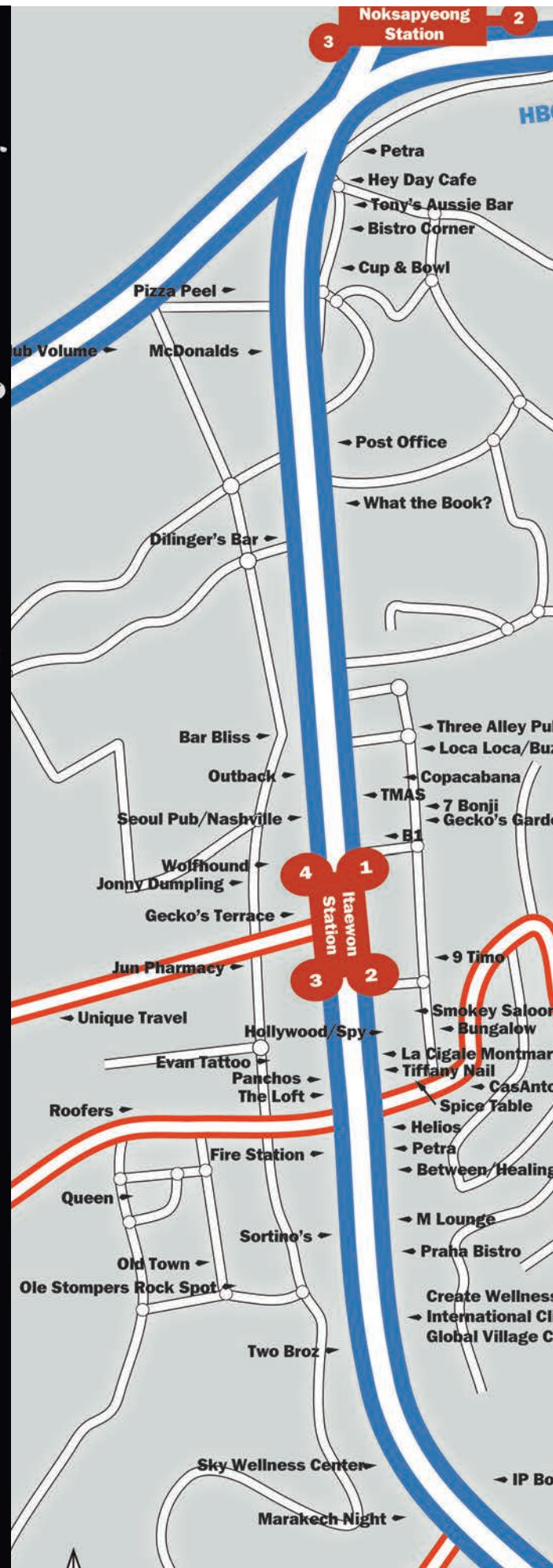
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Name:  
Alla Ponomareva  
Title:  
Dreams of Imperfections

Description:  
We travel through life with a can of energy drink, whose ingredients are our goals, aspirations and dreams of a more fulfilling future. What we fail to realize is that sometimes imperfections are what makes us human, what makes us unique and in turn, attractive. Like this abandoned spider's web, flapping aimlessly in the wind, it is not ideal, but it is one of a kind, real and beautiful. As a photographer, I enjoy finding these tiny imperfections and beautifully present them to the world.

Next  
Month's  
Challenge  
**Old**

Name:  
Dr. Dirk Schlottmann  
Title:  
Water Free

Description:  
The photo shows the reflection of a tree in Lake Jussabell (Gyeongju, Gyeongbuk-do). The image on the water surface seems to me like a vision in which shapes, colors and textures are mixed. This creates an impression of a looking mirror world where borders are blurry.

**BlackBerry**

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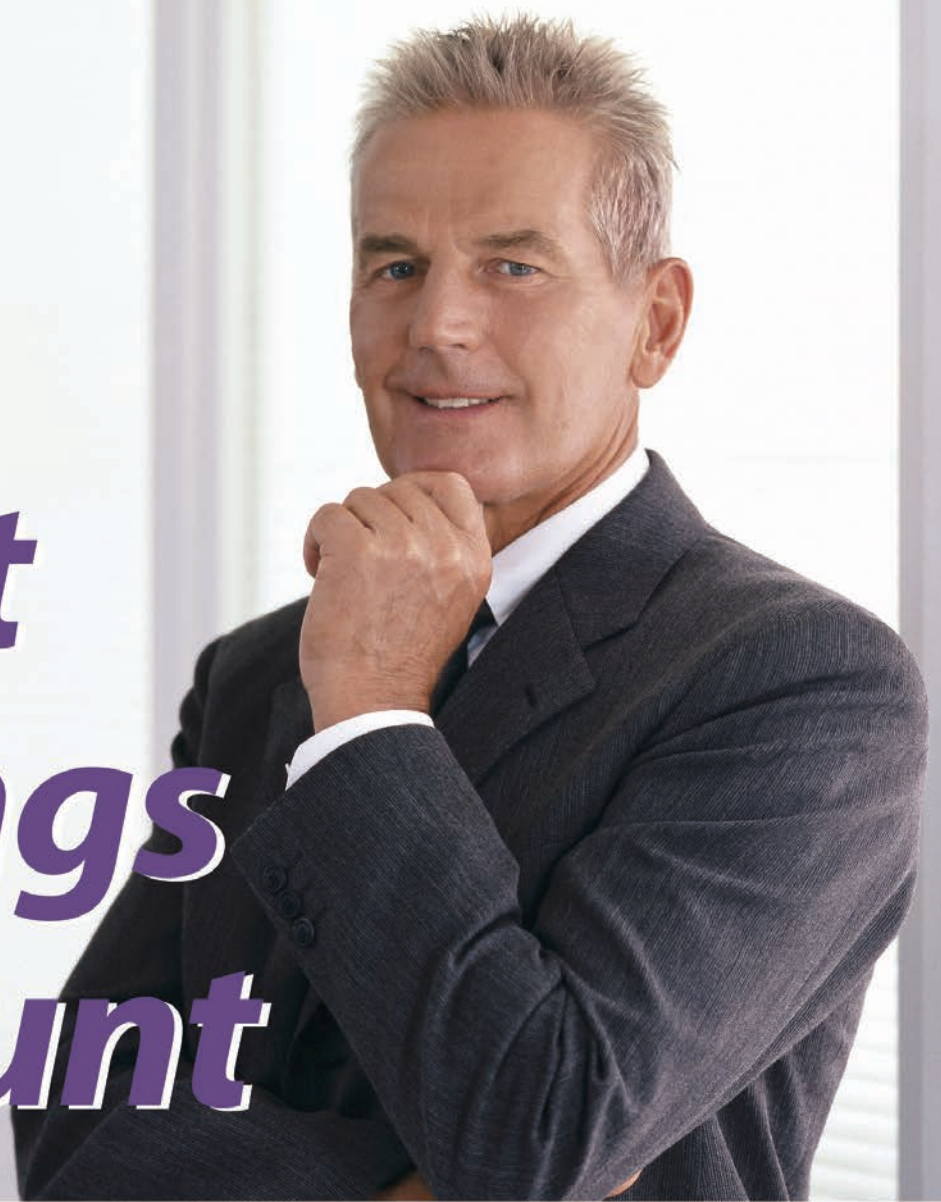
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